



THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,697

MONDAY 24 AUGUST 1998

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56-PAGE LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT

INSIDE: THE ONLY
OFFICIAL UCAS GUIDE
TO UNIVERSITY PLACES

BROADSHEET REVIEW

After Diana:
Spiritual void?

ARTS
COMMENT & NETWORK

Anger as paedophile moves to victim's village

A COMPULSIVE paedophile who will be released from prison in two weeks is to return to the Oxfordshire village where one of his victims still lives, provoking a fresh debate about how society should deal with released offenders.

Unlike other recently released dangerous paedophiles, Rhys Hughes has refused to be voluntarily placed in secure accommodation and is adamant that he will return to his home in Sonning Common.

Hughes, who was sentenced to 10 years in 1992 for the rape and buggery of nine children, also refused treatment for his

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

offending behaviour while in prison.

News of his imminent release comes as the Prison Service considers using a chemical castration technique as part of its treatment of compulsive sex offenders. Hospital trials with released offenders who agreed to have monthly injections of a drug which curbs their sex drive have had encouraging results.

Hughes' decision to return to Sonning Common has provoked anger and consternation

in the village. Geraldine Pendry, who has four children aged between four and thirteen, said: "No sentence is long enough for someone who does that to children."

She predicted that the paedophile's presence would drive children off the streets. "The atmosphere here is going to change," she said. "Mothers are going to be a lot more cautious after he is let out."

Thames Valley Police have set up a 24-hour help line, staffed by female officers, so that his victim can contact them if she feels threatened. And they are vetting a series of

homeowners who have agreed to offer safe houses, identified by Neighbourhood Watch-style stickers, to which children can run if they feel under threat.

Probation officers admitted last night that because Hughes, 65, was sentenced three months before the Criminal Justice Act 1991 became law, no restriction could be forced on his movements. Two other paedophiles, Sidney Cooke and Robert Oliver, recently accepted voluntary restrictions because they were fearful for their own safety.

Last night, Harry Fletcher, of the National Association of

Probation Officers, said Hughes must be persuaded to go into secure accommodation. "The only way forward is to coerce him into accepting controls on his movement," he said.

The chemical castration trials involved two men, described as "self-admitted compulsive paedophiles", who have abstained from reoffending over a seven-year period after being administered with the drug goserelin acetate, which lowers testosterone levels.

Last night, the Prison Service said: "We are discussing its potential use as part of the overall sex-offenders' treat-

ment programme. When things like this come to light, clearly we would wish to see if there is any potential for its use."

Among those who have responded well to the treatment is Andrew Witham, 37, who is described by his doctors as a "hypersexual, predatory paedophile". Mr Witham committed his first offences at the age of 16. He first took goserelin in 1986 but his treatment was stopped when the Mental Health Commission intervened because it feared possible side-effects.

Mr Witham challenged the decision and in 1992 a judge agreed to spare him a life sen-

tence on condition that he took the drug as part of a programme overseen by Russell Reid, a consultant psychiatrist at Hillingdon Hospital, west London.

Last night, Dr Reid said: "Most sex offenders I know are breaking their necks for this kind of treatment. You can switch off their libido by giving them an injection once a month."

Dr Reid is also treating a second patient who is 38, with an emotional age of 13. The man, who has an obsession with pre-pubescent girls, lives with his mother and makes a poor living selling goods from catalogues. He, too, has avoided reoffending

since starting the programme nearly seven years ago.

Goserelin, which is manufactured under the trade name Zoladex, is licensed for the treatment of prostate and breast cancer. David Parker, a spokesman for Zeneca Pharmaceuticals, which produces Zoladex, said: "Whether or not a psychiatrist working in a Home Office establishment wishes to use it for treatment of a sex offender is entirely a matter for him. But it's not a registered use for the drug."

Village reaction, page 3
Leading article, Review, page 3

Yeltsin fires his entire government

RUSSIA WAS plunged into profound political turmoil last night after Boris Yeltsin sacked his Prime Minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, only four months after he was confirmed in office and, with him, the entire government.

The President's decision came as Russia was grappling with one of its most precarious fiscal crises since the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991.

A statement from the Kremlin said that Viktor Chernomyrdin would be appointed as acting Prime Minister - a post he held for more than five years before being abruptly dismissed in March.

The Kremlin's unexpected announcement came less than a week after the international financial community was rocked by Russia's decision, in effect, to devalue the rouble and default on some foreign debts, marking the failure of a long and costly battle to prop up the currency.

It is the second time Mr

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

Yeltsin has sacked his government in a year; he gave no reason. Mr Kiriyenko's sudden departure came as he was in the midst of a weekend of painful bargaining with foreign and Russian investors over how to restructure \$40bn of government debt on high interest treasury bills, some of which Moscow is expected to be forced to write off as it cannot afford to service it.

The discussions also concerned billions of dollars owed by Russian banks to Western institutions, currently under a 90-day moratorium. The fate of the negotiations - upon which the future of the whole banking system could rest - was unclear last night, but it seemed likely that they were in havoc.

When Mr Kiriyenko, 35, was ushered onto the world stage with his surprise nomination as Prime Minister in March, he was greeted with cries of

amazement from opposition politicians who argued that he was far too inexperienced for the job.

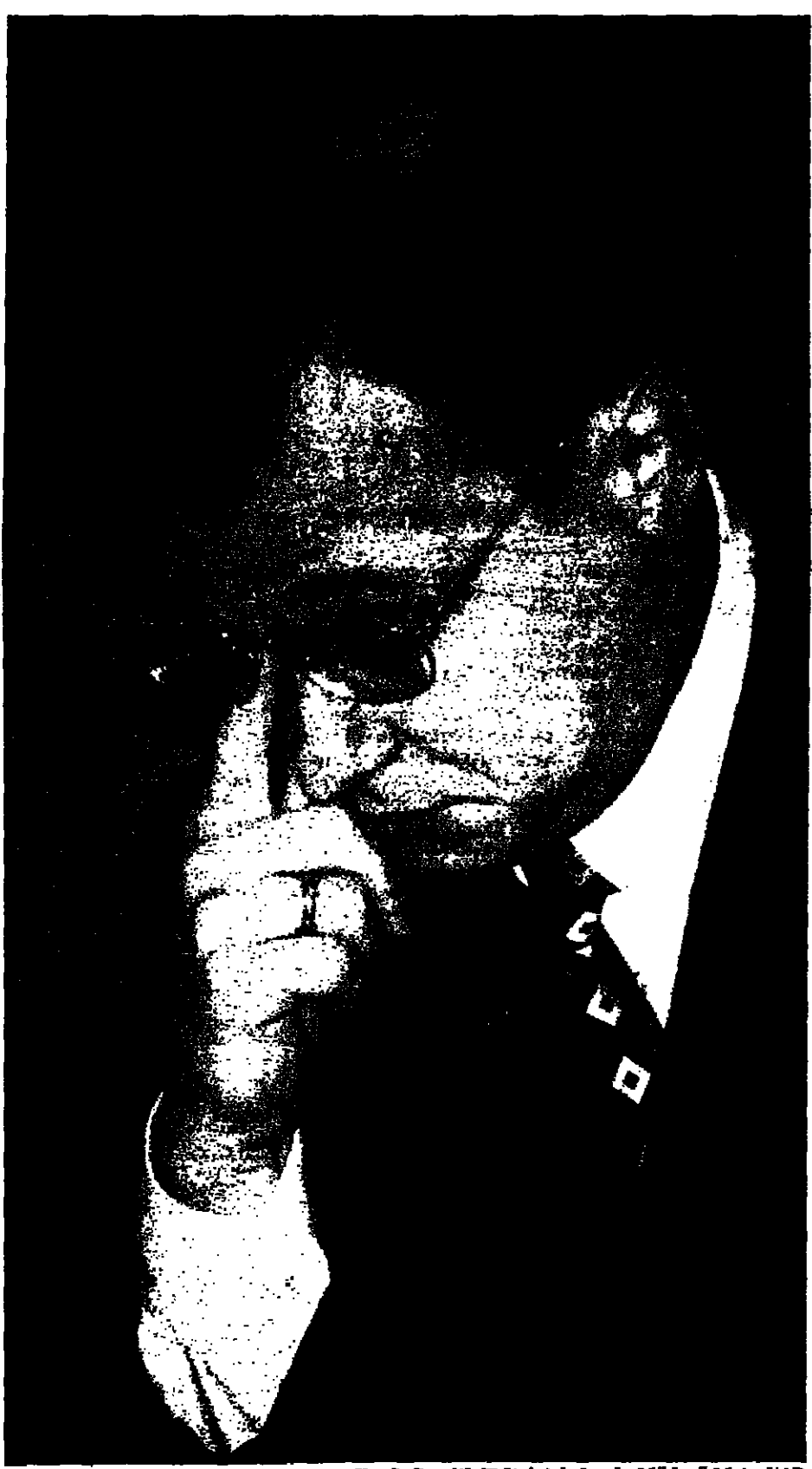
But Mr Kiriyenko had begun to establish a reputation among Mr Yeltsin's Western supporters for calm efficiency, even though the country's economic problems - deepened falling oil prices and turmoil in Asia - seemed to worsen by the day. The share market plunged downwards, tax collection remained dismal, and the rouble began to topple despite the \$23bn bailout supervised by the International Monetary Fund.

The return of Mr Chernomyrdin, 50, the wealthy former chief executive of the Gazprom gas monopoly, will win little public applause and is thus a gamble on Mr Yeltsin's part.

Mr Chernomyrdin will be seen by many as yet another blunder by an increasingly incomprehensible President. His critics say he is indecisive. Worse, he is associated with an unpopular administration that presided over a period of corruption, rising crime and the Chechen war and a privatisation process that did little more than place private monopolies in the hands of a rich few. Despite his aspirations to become president in 2000, Mr Chernomyrdin is often seen as an energy fat cat, whose complacency is often the butt of Russian jokes.

Mr Yeltsin can expect a battle with the Communist-dominated Duma parliament over his latest appointment.

Business, page 11



Kiriyenko (above) is out, Chernomyrdin (left, with Yeltsin) is back. Mikhail Metzel/AP

Diana's death leaves Britain unchanged

FEW PEOPLE think Diana's death a year ago had a lasting effect either on themselves or on the nation as a whole, according to a Harris poll for *The Independent*.

Only one in seven, 14 per cent, thinks Britain is a "better country" as a result of her death. This is twice as many as the 7 per cent who think Britain is a "worse country". The majority, 75 per cent, think the nation is "no different".

On a personal level, only 17 per cent said Diana's death, a year ago next Monday, had "changed the way I think about life", whereas 80 per cent said it had not changed them.

The poll suggests, meanwhile, that people are evenly divided on whether Diana's death has had any effect on "The Firm" with which she saw herself at war while she was alive: 44 per cent think the royal family is "more in touch with the people" as a result of her death,

BY JOHN RENTOUL

while 44 per cent think it has made no difference. Eight per cent think the royal family is "less in touch" as a result.

People are also divided over whether Prince Charles' plans to modernise the monarchy go far enough. The "Way Ahead" group of senior royals is working on a series of reforms.

While 44 per cent said the "pace of reforms of the monarchy" was "about right", nearly as many, 39 per cent, thought it should be "speeded up".

People also doubt whether Diana's death had any effect on the media.

Harris Research interviewed 1,064 people face-to-face in their homes between 7 and 11 August and weighted the results to match the profile of the adult population.

Full details, page 2
Leading article, Review, page 3



UK prepared to attack terrorist bases

GEORGE ROBERTSON, the Secretary of State for Defence, warned yesterday that the Government was prepared to order US-style missile strikes on terrorist targets if British embassies were attacked.

In the most hawkish comments yet made by a minister, Mr Robertson said terrorists would be shown that there was "a price to be paid" for any assaults on UK installations.

But Tony Benn, the Labour

BY PAUL WAUGH
and MARCUS TANNER

MP for Chesterfield, said Mr Robertson's remarks showed that the British Government's unilateral support of US strikes in Afghanistan and Sudan had placed Britons abroad in danger and proved the urgent need to recall Parliament.

Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, said he was "as-

tonished" by Mr Robertson's statement, adding: "I believe the Prime Minister has been irresponsible in endorsing [President Bill] Clinton and I believe that George Robertson has also been irresponsible. He has rendered vulnerable British embassies and the softer targets of British council officers."

Mr Robertson said Britain had evidence that the Saudi dissident, Osama bin Laden, was behind the bombings of US

embassies in East Africa and was attempting to acquire chemical weapons.

He refused to rule out missile attacks by the Royal Navy or RAF if any British targets were hit by a terror campaign believed to involve Mr bin Laden. "We have given the same indications and the same warnings to international terrorists who would threaten our embassies that the consequences would be dire on them if they did it," he

told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*. "We are all targets if they believe they can get away with it with impunity."

Mr Robertson said his US counterpart, William Cohen, had compelling evidence that the El Shifa pharmaceutical factory in the Sudanese capital Khartoum was producing chemical and biological weapons.

His remarks further widen the gap between Britain and its European allies on the US air

strikes. With the exception of Tony Blair, European leaders have reacted coolly to the American cruise missile bombings of alleged terrorist sites in Afghanistan and Sudan.

Sudan renewed its demand yesterday for a United Nations team to investigate the factory attacked by the US, which it insists produced medical drugs.

Call for UN probe, page 10
Paul Spike, Review, page 4

INSIDE
FULL CONTENTS
PAGE 2
TODAY'S TV
REVIEW, PAGE 24

HOME
Omagh takes its first steps to recovery as business reopens after a week of destruction
PAGE 2

HOME
Women who smoke in pregnancy can transfer carcinogenic chemicals to their unborn babies
PAGE 3

HOME
A Scottish Lord was suspected of being a Japanese spy during the Second World War
PAGE 6

BUSINESS
Scottish Power has drawn up a hit-list of US utilities for merger talks
PAGE 11

SPORT
Ben Houlloake has been recalled to the England Test side to face Sri Lanka
PAGE 19

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INDEX

HOME NEWS

PAGES 2-7

Worldwide study into infertility

A worldwide study of the quality of human sperm has been launched to establish what should be considered 'normal' for men. Page 5

Labour call for end to union links

A right-wing group of New Labour modernisers will next month call for a referendum on abolition of the monarchy, drug decriminalisation and the scrapping of all links with trade unions. Page 6

FOREIGN NEWS

PAGES 8-10

Jewish settlers ransack market

Militant Jewish settlers went on the rampage in the tense West Bank city of Hebron, in protest of the murder of a leading rabbi. Page 8

Angola helps Congo government

President Laurent Kabila's quest for regional military support paid off yesterday when his Angolan allies captured a rebel stronghold in western Congo. Page 8

BUSINESS NEWS

PAGES 11-13

Sainsbury drops active pensions

Sainsbury is switching £300m of pension fund assets out of active fund management into passive index tracking. Page 11

Era ends as Sun Life name goes

Sun Life, one of the oldest names in the UK pensions industry, is to go in a rebranding of member companies of the Axa group, which owns 40 per cent. Page 11

SPORTS NEWS

PAGES 14-24

Gronberg storms to victory

Sweden's Mathias Gronberg recorded an astonishing 10-stroke victory in the European Open - the Continent's second richest golf tournament - in Dublin. Page 17

Villa boosted by Joachim goal

Julian Joachim grabbed his place in the spotlight for Aston Villa with a stunning goal in Villa's 3-1 home win against Middlesbrough. Page 23

MONDAY REVIEW

24-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

Paul Spike

'So, the destroyed factory had been part of Sudan's 'military-industrial complex'. That's an audacious piece of spin, even for this White House.' Page 4

Fay Weldon

'Even to remark that patriarchy is no longer the worst enemy feels a bit dangerous, upsetting those who live by the old rules.' Page 4

Letters	2	Network	15-20
Leaders and comment	3-5	Listings	21-22
Obituaries	6-7	Games	23
Gazette	7	Radio, Satellite TV	23
Features	8-11	Concise crossword	23
Arts	12-14	Today's TV	24

Cryptic crossword, section one, page 24



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Omagh seeks a return to normal life

By DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

THE TOWN of Omagh will today take its first faltering steps towards recovery when businesses reopen after its week of death, injury and destruction. Traders say they believe they must open as many premises as possible to bring some sense of life and movement back to the town's shattered centre. On Saturday, some 40,000 people, twice the town's population, took part in a moving service of reflection. Similar services were held in cities and towns all over Ireland, and in London.

The British and Irish governments, meanwhile, continued the work of putting in place a co-ordinated security response to the 15 August atrocity. Downing Street has confirmed that a recall of Parliament to pass new security measures was an option.

A spokeswoman for No 10 said there were a lot of legal and technical issues that had to be considered over any new security measures. A decision on whether to recall Parliament, or take any other action, would be made this week, she said.

The authorities are working on a number of measures, the most important of which may be changes to the law on providing membership of illegal organisations. In the Irish Republic in the 1970s many republicans were imprisoned



Tony Blair: Recall of the Commons an option

after trials in which senior Garda members testified they believed defendants were members of the IRA.

In those days IRA members habitually refused to recognise the court. The combination of the police officer's word and the attitude of defendants was generally enough to satisfy judges and result in convictions. Successful prosecutions dwindled, however, when the IRA came to realise it was helping to jail its own members, and ordered them to recognise the court.

It is believed that some variation of this legislation might be introduced north and south, leading to a swift round-up of those associated with the Real IRA, the group behind the

Omagh bomb, which killed 28 people.

Tony Blair, who is to fly to Belfast today after his holiday in France, yesterday took the unusual step of ruling out the assassinations of Real IRA personnel. He said in a newspaper article: "In a world dominated by terror, yes, we could, to use the parlance, 'take them out'." But he added: "Ours is a country built on values of democracy. We are winning the argument, which is why more and more people are opting for peace."

The Prime Minister is to say in Belfast: "Good can come out of this evil. It could be the final horrific event which closes this chapter in Irish history for ever."

His Irish counterpart was not, however, so optimistic. Bertie Ahern warned that Omagh would probably not be Northern Ireland's last atrocity. He declared: "I'd love to say to you that I believe this is the last event, but I think there is a small element, and they are small, who do not share that feeling."

Two phoneboxes believed to have been used in making the misleading telephone warnings about the Omagh bomb were removed by police from Silverbridge, near Forkhill in south Armagh. They were later flown by helicopter to a police forensic laboratory.



Darrell Hardy wings it at the Bognor Regis birdman contest Andrew Buurman

Men and women divided in attitudes towards Diana

FAR FROM uniting the nation, responses to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales seem to have divided us, especially along the traditional battle lines of sex and class.

Women are more likely than men to say that her death last August "changed the way they think about life", with 21 per cent saying it had, compared with only 14 per cent of men.

Interviewees in social groups C2, D and E were also more likely than ABC1s to say

BY JOHN RENTOU

they had changed: 20 per cent compared with 14 per cent.

Women are also more likely than men to think that the royal family has become "more in touch with the people" as a result of Diana's death, with 48 per cent of women saying so as opposed to 40 per cent of men. Again, class differences are marked, with middle-class (ABC1) respondents more sup-

portive of the royal family while the working-classes (C2DE) are more sceptical.

Whereas 50 per cent of ABC1s said the monarchy was "more in touch", 6 per cent said "less in touch", only 40 per cent of C2DEs said "more" and 10 per cent said "less".

Women and men also differ in their attitudes to reform of the monarchy and the effect of Diana's death on the media.

While more men think modernisation of the monarchy

should be "speeded up", 42 per cent, than think the present pace of reform is "about right", 41 per cent, women tend to be happy with the present speed of change - supported by 47 per cent against 37 per cent who want faster reform.

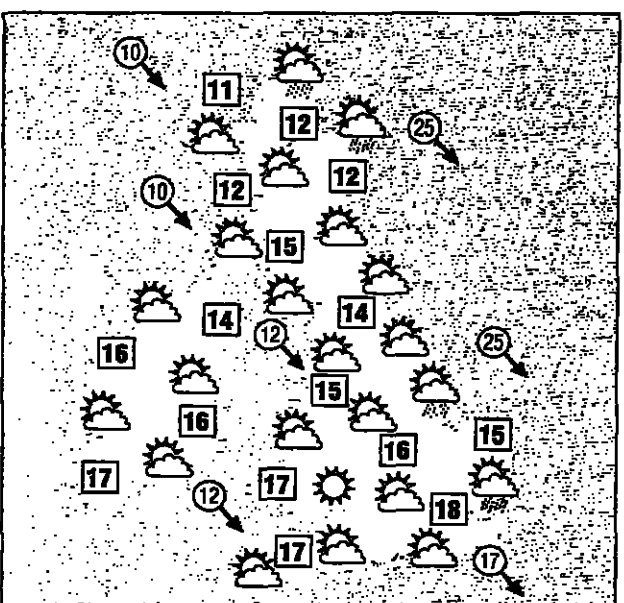
Men are also more cynical about journalists, with only 17 per cent thinking the media has showed "more respect" for the privacy of the famous since Diana's death, against 25 per cent of women.

DID DIANA'S DEATH CHANGE BRITAIN?

1 As a result of the outpouring of grief for Diana a year ago, do you think Britain is:	14%	44%
A better country	7%	8%
A worse country	75%	44%
No different		
2 Did the death of Diana change the way you personally think about life?	17%	21%
Yes	80%	14%
No		60%
3 Prince Charles is known to be working on plans to modernise the monarchy. Do you think the pace of reforms should be:	39%	41%
Speeded up	4%	53%
Slowed down	44%	
About right		

Harris Research interviewed 1,064 people face-to-face in their homes between 7 and 17 August and weighted the results to match the profile of the adult population.

BRITAIN TODAY



FORECAST

General situation: Sunny spells and scattered showers across the UK, the showers mainly in the morning and in eastern areas where it will be breezy. Cold in the north and cool towards east coasts of England. A moderate north-west wind easing light. Max temp 17-20C (63-68F).

London, E & SE England, E Angles, E Midlands: Sunny spells and scattered showers, mainly early and towards east coasts. A moderate north-west wind easing light. Max temp 15-20C (63-68F).

West Midlands, Cheshire: Sunny spells. A fresh north-west wind easing light. Max temp 15-20C (63-68F).

SW England, Wales: Sunny spells and scattered showers. A moderate north-west wind easing light. Max temp 15-20C (63-68F).

NW England, W Midlands Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Sunny spells and scattered showers which will mainly die out. A light to moderate north-west wind. Max temp 15-19C (61-67F).

Cent N & NE England: Sunny spells and scattered showers, mainly early and towards east coasts. A moderate to fresh north-west wind. Max temp 15-18C (59-64F).

N Ireland: Sunny spells. A light north-west wind. Max temp 15-16C (59-61F).

SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: Sunny spells. A light north-west wind. Max temp 14-17C (57-63F).

SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Isles: Cold with sunny spells and scattered showers. A moderate to fresh north-west wind. Max temp 13-16C (55-61F).

Rain for Northern Ireland, Wales and England on Tuesday but Scotland should be dry with sunny spells. Sunny spells and showers on Wednesday, but the showers are likely to be prolonged in parts of England during the afternoon and evening.

OUTLOOK

Roads: London: M1/A12 link road. Variable conditions in place. Until 31st December 1998.

West Midlands: M5 between J5 (Bham west) and J2 (Dudley). Resurfacing work with a 50mph speed limit in a new half-mile carriageway during flood relief work. Until 12th October.

West Yorkshire: M1 between J43 Stork and J42 (Lofthouse Interchange) (MS). Roadworks with 50mph speed limit. Until 1st November.

Buckinghamshire: M40 between Juncions 1a (M25) & 3 Wycombe East. Three narrow lanes both ways and a 50 mph speed limit in force. Until 1st January 1999.

Berkshire: M4 between J9 Maidenhead and J7 Slough. New road layout with a 50mph speed limit in a new half-mile carriageway during flood relief work. Until 30th November.

Bristol: M5 J18-19. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 1st January 2001.

All Roadworks Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

LIGHTING UP

Belfast	8.35pm to 6.17am
Birmingham	8.14pm to 6.06am
Bristol	8.15pm to 6.11am
Glasgow	8.32pm to 6.07am
London	8.05pm to 6.02am
Manchester	8.18pm to 6.05am
Newcastle	8.19pm to 5.59am

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Abermouth	9.35	13.1	9.47	13.1
Blackpool	1.01	9.0	1.19	8.8
Cork	7.46	4.4	8.06	4.4
Dun Laoghaire	1.39	4.2	1.49	3.9
Falmouth	7.34	5.1	7.40	5.3
Fleetham	9.34	4.56	9.48	4.76
Glasgow	2.31	3.6	3.16	3.3
Hull (Albert Dock)	8.27	8.7	8.54	8.4
Liverpool	1.15	9.4	1.33	9.2
London	1.15	9.4	1.33	9.2
Millford Haven	8.28	6.7	8.42	6.9
Newquay	7.19	6.8	7.33	6.9
Penzance	6.48	5.3	7.05	5.5
Portsmouth	10.38	4.9	10.53	5.0
Purcell	9.12	1.8	9.20	2.0
Swansea	10.18	4.8	10.32	4.9
Widnes	12.58	8.1		
Scarborough	6.07	5.8	6.35	5.5
Southampton	10.53	1.9	1.06	4.5
Swansea	1.10	1.9	1.06	4.5
Widnes	1.20	3.6	1.44	3.3

AIR QUALITY

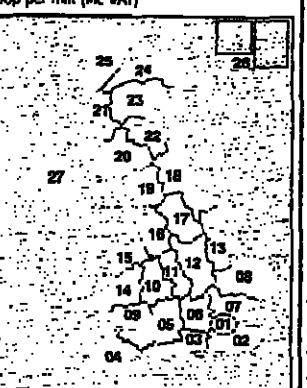
	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	O ₃	SO ₂
London	Good	Good	Good	Good
S. England	Good	Good	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good	Good	Good
N. England	Good	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good	Good	Good
N. Ireland	Good	Good	Good	Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises	06.00	Sun
Sun sets	20.05	Sun
Moon rises	08.23	Moon
Moon sets	21.10	Moon
First quarter	August 30th	

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecast dial 0891 5009 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).



YESTERDAY

Warmest: St. Helier 30C (86F)
Coldest: Kiriwail 10C (50F)
Wettest: Mumbles 0.53 in
Sickest: Lerrwick 3.0 hours
For 24hrs to 2pm Sunday

	Sun	Rate	Max
Aberdeen	7.2	0.04	16
Amsterdam	8.5	0.01	17
Antwerp	4.8	0.11	15
Belfast	8.5	0.06	17
Birmingham	4.9	0.01	18
Bombay	5.5	0.01	21
Bristol	4.8	0	19
Buenos Aires	4.4	0.44	15
Cardiff	7.7	0	18
Cebu	7.4	0	19
Copenhagen	7.2	0.21	17
Dublin	7.7	0	18
Edinburgh	5.5	0.01	21
Geneva	5.0	0.01	20
Helsinki	6.6	0	15
Hong Kong	12.1	0	17
London	5.1	0	21
Los Angeles	4.2	0	22
Lyons	5.2	0	18
Madrid	3.8	0.01	19
Manila	0.4	0.09	18
Moscow	10.9	0.01	19
Osaka	4.6	0.01	11
Paris	5.2	0	20
Perth	6.3	0	20
Portsmouth	5.3	0.13	19
San Francisco	6.3	0.02	17
Seattle	4.8	0	20
Shanghai	8.4	0.01	16
Stockholm	9.9	0.04	16
Sydney	5.4	0.17	18
Tokyo	5.5	0.01	20
Winnipeg	6.9	0.01	19
Yokohama	5.5	0.01	20
Zurich	9.8	0	16
Shanghai	9.3	0.01	18
Southport	7.0	0	22
Stuttgart	-	0.03	17
Toronto	-	0.16	15
Winnipeg	4.5	0.01	20
Yokohama	7.7	0	18
Zurich	5.3	0	21
Winnipeg	5.2	0.01	20

THE WORLD

24 hours to 6pm (GMT) Saturday
Information by PA WeatherCentre

COME RAIN OR SHINE...

HURRICANE Bonnie, the first hurricane of the 1998 Atlantic season, could dominate the news in the United States this week. America's National Hurricane Centre said yesterday that Bonnie - which passed through the Bahamas over the weekend - could threaten the east coast "within days". People living in Florida were advised to board up their windows.

OR SHINE...

HURRICANE Bonnie, the first hurricane of the 1998 Atlantic season, could dominate the news in the United States this week America's National Hurricane Centre said yesterday as Bonnie - which passed through the Bahamas over the weekend - could threaten the east coast "within days". People living in Florida were advised to board up their windows

pers and vigilante actions. Oliver left prison last September and was chased from town to town by angry crowds until he sought refuge in a Sussex police station.

He has since been moved to a medium secure psychiatric unit in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. The public cost of keeping Oliver since his release has now exceeded £100,000.

Cooke was released in April, after 11 years in jail, and has since been held in police cells, first in London and then at an undisclosed location in Avon and Somerset. Even rumours of his presence have been enough to trigger angry public demonstrations.

Another of Co.Ke's gang, Stephen Barrett, 37, from Dagenham, Essex, has vanished after he was released early from his 10-year sentence.

BY STEVE CONNOR

Historians had thought the sacred blue lily, which was found scattered over Tutankhamen's body when the Pharaoh's tomb was opened in 1922, was a purely symbolic flower. The new research, which will be transmitted tonight on Channel 4's *Sacred Wreaths* series, suggests the blue lily may have played a role as a stimulant during parties thrown by the ancient Egyptians.

"Many of these subjective effects we observed are parallel to those seen with ecstasy. Although this is an early stage of uncharted territory, these findings will be looked on with great interest by pharmacologists," Dr Duty said. The blue lily is depicted on the walls of the temple at Karnak and appeared throughout Egyptian art.

The Death Watch beetle

Goldfish

You'll be surprised what you can do with a Goldfish.

Please quote reference P-1

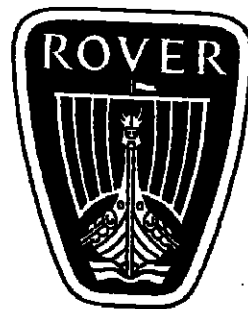
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Worldwide sperm count launched

A WORLDWIDE study of the quality of human sperm has been launched to establish what should be considered "normal" for men.

Scientists fear that male reproductive health is declining and say there is an urgent need to establish the causes so measures can be taken to prevent further damage. They point to the global fall in sperm counts, the rise in testicular cancer and the increase in other male sexual disorders, such as undescended testicles, as evidence of a worrying pat-

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

tern that could threaten the future of the human race.

The international study of semen quality is underway in Europe (Scotland, France, Denmark and Finland) and in Japan and will be launched in the United States in the autumn. The study will assess geographical variations in the volume, concentration and motility of sperm, the level of male sex hormones and the role of chemicals in the environment.

Male reproductive health was neglected until six years ago when the Danish scientist, Niels Skakkebaek, published a paper showing that global sperm counts had halved in 50 years. The paper spawned a wealth of studies but there is still no agreement on whether the fall is a global phenomenon.

Much of the controversy has surrounded differences in the way sperm counts were carried out. The new study will lay down a base line, with agreed measures, so comparisons can be made at 10-year intervals.

Stewart Irvine, of the Medical Research Council's Reproductive Biology Unit in Edinburgh and co-ordinator of the United Kingdom arm of the study, said existing evidence suggested that sperm counts were falling twice as fast in Europe as in the US—at 3 per cent a year compared with 1.5 per cent. British men have sperm counts almost twice as high as the Danish (90 million per millilitre compared with 50 million) but only three-quarters that of the Finnish (120 million). However, sperm counts will

have to fall a long way before they cause problems with fertility because of the large safety buffer that nature has provided: only one sperm is needed to fertilise an egg.

A bigger worry is the rise in testicular cancer which mainly affects young men. In the UK, the rate doubled between 1962 and 1986 and now stands at around 10 cases per 100,000 men, twice the rate in Finland (5 per 100,000) but less than half that in Denmark (25 per 100,000).

Although Finland has a lower testicular cancer rate

and a higher sperm count than Denmark or the UK, the rate of increase in testicular cancer in Finland is higher. "Whatever is going on is going on at different rates in different countries. If it is an environmental factor, the Danes may have been exposed to it longer," Dr Irvine said.

Environmental pollution is the most likely cause of the decline in male reproductive health. Most experts blame industrial chemicals, including the pesticide DDT and those used in making plastics, which mimic the hormone oestrogen in

their effect on the body, bringing out feminine characteristics or counteracting male hormones.

Dr Irvine said: "The use of agro-chemicals in Denmark is enormous. Whether that is relevant we don't know but it is a suspect."

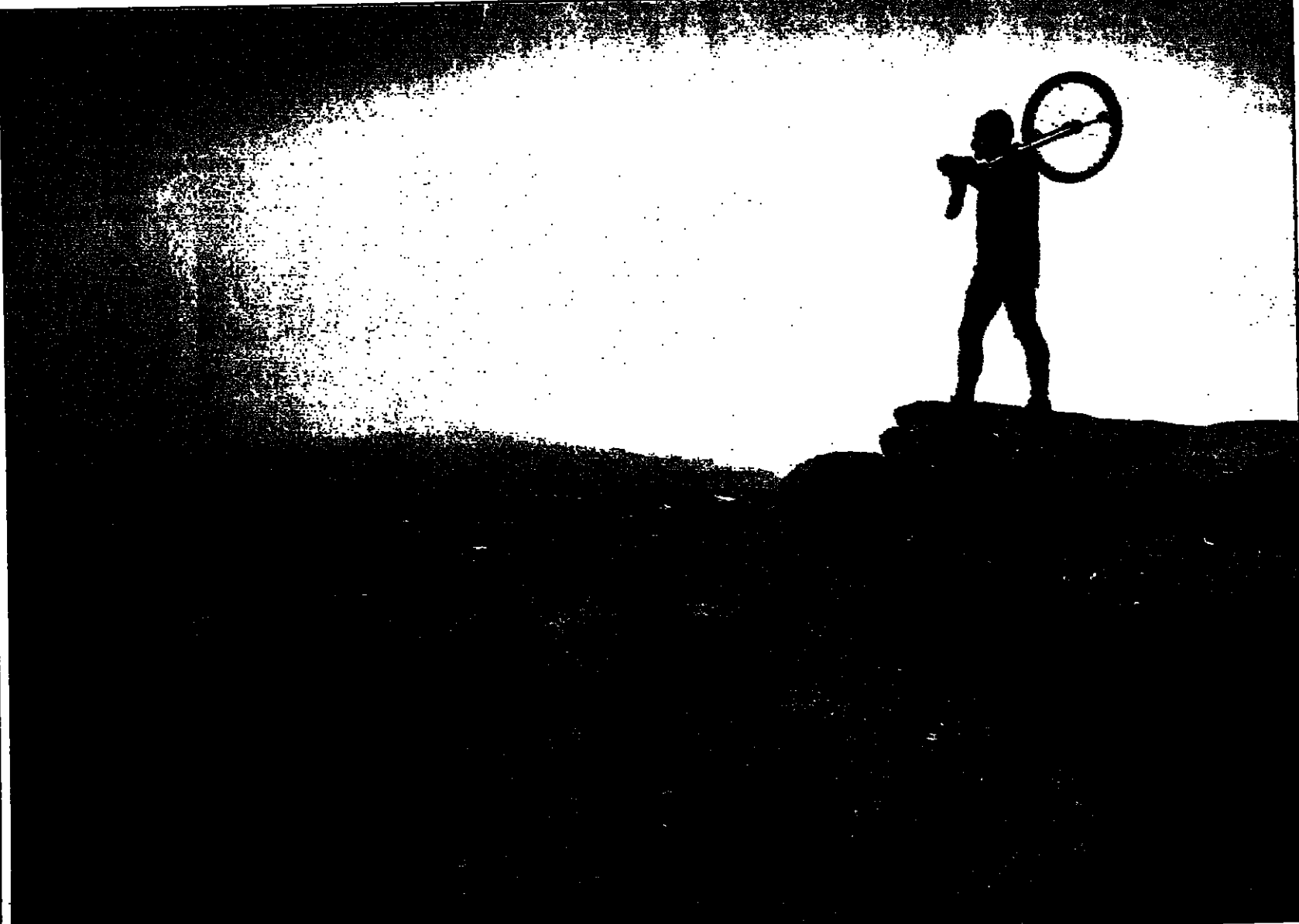
An alternative theory blames changes in lifestyle. People are waiting longer to have children and fertility declines with age.

Harry Fisch, director of the male reproductive centre at the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Centre in New York, said in

the *Lancet* journal: "Many of the men (seeking treatment for infertility) are overweight, they don't exercise, they smoke and they take all kinds of herbs and hormone-containing supplements. You see all these risk factors yet men blame some environmental factor when they should blame themselves."

However, he added: "There is no smoke without fire. The changes we have seen indicate we are facing a worrying public health question. It is important we address it before something serious does come along."

Public access: Hundreds pedal on to Devon moors in protest at new national park rules restricting where they can ride



Animal rights protesters demonstrating in Dover yesterday against the live export of sheep, while in Dartmoor a unicyclist stands near Hay Tor during the protest against the ban on cyclists from the moor. Tim Cuff/Chris Eades

Cyclists stage mass trespass on Dartmoor

THE RIGHT of access to the countryside and opposition to live animal exports were the subject of separate demonstrations yesterday.

Cyclists on Dartmoor protested against being banned from open land while environmentalists demonstrated against crops being grown on the Sussex Downs. In Dover, Kent, activists were campaigning against the export of lambs and sheep.

More than 200 cyclists pedalled onto Dartmoor in a mass

BY DIANA BLAMIRE

trespass to protest against a new bylaw A rule introduced by Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) makes it an offence to cycle on common or access land except on a bridle way or with the owner's consent.

The Cyclists Touring Club organised the protest against the bylaw, which was brought in at the beginning of June.

Dave Richards, spokesman for the CTC, said: "Cyclists

have been riding all over the moor since the bike was invented. Intransigence on the part of landowners, Devon County Council and the Government has led to cyclists being thrown off Dartmoor when it is supposedly government policy both to encourage cycling and to recognise the public's right to access and to enjoy the countryside."

The DNPA said the new rule was needed to prevent erosion and halt disturbance to livestock and wildlife.

In another mass trespass, 150 demonstrators from The Land Is Ours marched through cornfields on the Sussex Downs to campaign for more access to public land. The group is opposed to farmers growing crops on parts of the Downs which used to be open to the public.

The animal rights group Compassion in World Farming held a rally and march through Dover to protest against the launch of a new ferry service to Dunkirk for the exportation of live lambs and sheep.

Divers recover woman's body from river

A WOMAN'S body was recovered yesterday from the river where a honeymooning couple disappeared last week.

The body was taken from the Wharfe at Addingham, near Ilkley in West Yorkshire, by police diving teams who are continuing to search the area.

Lynn and Barry Collett were on honeymoon in the Yorkshire Dales when they went missing last Monday.

A police spokeswoman said it was too early to say whether the body was linked to the couple, but their families, who had returned home after spending last week in North Yorkshire, were travelling back yesterday to identify the body.

"Clearly we cannot confirm whose body we have found at this stage, but given the recent circumstances it is sensible to bring the families back," said the spokeswoman.

Earlier in the week, an estate worker from Bolton Abbey, where the couple were thought

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

to be walking, saw a body in the river, but it disappeared before he could call for help.

Shortly afterwards a red anorak was recovered from the river, which police said had belonged to Mrs Collett, 26. It contained the key to the holiday cottage where the couple, married in Hampshire nine days ago, were honeymooning.

"When we went into the cottage we saw all the presents and a tier of the wedding cake," the spokeswoman said.

"On the day they disappeared there had been heavy rain in the Dales and the river was very high and very fast-flowing. It is a treacherous stretch of water."

Although the police are continuing to search the river and surrounding areas, hopes are fading of finding alive Mr Collett, 26. "It appears to be a terrible human tragedy," said the spokeswoman.

Male potency drug available in five weeks

VIAGRA, THE impotence drug, may be available on prescription in Britain in about five weeks.

A European Commission standing committee will hold the final licensing hearing in London today and, barring unforeseen complications, Pfizer, the British manufacturer of the drug, expects a "positive outcome".

A spokesman said: "This should be one of the last hurdles for us. We may well have to answer some additional questions during the hearing, but we think we can do that."

If there are no last-minute hitches, the licence recommendation will go forward tomorrow to a European Commissioner for rubber stamping. This process usually takes about two weeks.

"After that, Pfizer believes it will probably take another three weeks or so to organise distribution and all the legally required printed information for

BY VANESSA THORPE

GPs in this country. So we are looking at starting to supply shops by around 6 September," the spokesman added.

Once the drug receives a licence, doctors will be able to prescribe the drug as they see fit, although patients will have to wait until at least next month to pick up the product.

Pfizer stresses that its scientists applied for a British licence in late summer last year, at exactly the same time they approached the authorities in the United States. However, due to the comparatively arcane nature of the European system, the drug has so far taken almost six months longer to get to the point of sale in Europe.

"It has been about a year since Pfizer first took the matter to the European Commission and that is a fairly average length of time for the licensing of any drug here," said the spokesman.

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88
It's a family thing



Israeli police chase Jewish children who threw rotting vegetables at reporters outside the settler enclave in Hebron yesterday.

Loay Abu Haykel/REUTERS

Jews ransack Arab market in protest at rabbi's killing

MILITANT JEWISH settlers went on the rampage in the tense West Bank city of Hebron yesterday, destroying crates of fruit and vegetables in an Arab market and pelting reporters with potatoes, tomatoes and eggs.

The rioters, mostly Jewish women and children, were protesting over last week's murder by Palestinians of Shlomo Ra'anan, a 63-year-old rabbi killed in his home.

The Arab stallholders were among about 30,000 Palestinians living on the Israeli side who spent three days under

BY ERIC SILVER
in Jerusalem

curfew. Israeli troops have placed the entire city under a virtual siege, including the 80 per cent of the city controlled by Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

The siege claimed its first victim on Saturday night when a three-month-old boy died of fever because Israeli checks prevented his parents from getting him to hospital in time.

He was named as Kassy Sultan. Doctors at the Alia hospital said he arrived too late to save him.

About 20 Arab youths responded to the mayhem in the market by marching from the Palestinian-controlled area towards an Israeli checkpoint, where they burned tyres and hurled rocks at the soldiers. The troops fired back with rubber-coated metal bullets and at least four of the Arabs were treated later in hospital for wounds.

Some of the settlers, who are not bound by the curfew, tried to break into Palestinian-held areas, but were forcibly restrained by Israeli security men.

The Arab mayor of Hebron, Mustafa Natshe, complained yesterday that people who had nothing to do with the rabbi's death were paying the price. "The situation is very serious," he said. "The controls are very tight. Our people can't go to work, and it is even difficult to bring in essential materials."

Hebron's 100,000 Arabs are already suffering a chronic water shortage, owing to the unusually hot summer. They have been buying extra water from tankers.

Mr Natshe protested that the Israelis were now blocking

the tankers heading into the city.

Rabbi Ra'anan, a member of a leading religious nationalist family, was stabbed to death in Tel Rumeida, a hilltop site where seven fanatical Jewish settler families live in caravans in the middle of an Arab neighbourhood. Until now, the government has resisted their demands for permanent homes to be built there. However, Benjamin Netanyahu's ministers voted yesterday to build homes.

Dan Naveh, a Cabinet spokesman, said: "Whoever thinks he can weaken the Jewish

settlement in Hebron by acts of despicable murder like we witnessed last week can see that he is making a bitter mistake and will achieve the opposite result."

It is five years since the Israeli-Palestinian accord was signed in Oslo. Mr Naveh said: "We received a bloody reminder a few days ago why Oslo is not a reason to rejoice."

"Perhaps it would be fitting to begin the ceremony with a minute's silence in memory of all the Jews who have been murdered since the agreement was signed."

Lebanon fears Israeli 'war on terror'

A THREAT by Israel to bomb Lebanon's electricity grid and water resources has prompted fears that Israel may take advantage of America's "war on terrorism" to strike at Lebanon again.

The Lebanese Foreign Minister, Fares Boueiz, has warned a visiting United States senator that Israel could attack under the pretext that, if America can assault Sudan and Afghanistan, Israel can chase its antagonists here.

Last week the killing of an Israeli soldier belonging to Israel's occupation force in Lebanon was followed by a booby trap bombing that killed another soldier and an Israeli construction worker.

BY ROBERT FISK
in Beirut

The Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, last year imaginatively characterised Israel's occupation of Lebanon as a "war against terror". President Bill Clinton's words for his latest adventure in the region - although the struggle in southern Lebanon is a classic guerrilla conflict.

After the first Israeli soldier was killed last week in a Hizbollah bomb explosion near Sojod, which wounded four of his colleagues, two Israeli ministers, Uzi Landau and Avigdor Kahalani, said Israel should bomb the Lebanese electricity grid and water resources every

time an Israeli dies in southern Lebanon.

Within 12 hours, the Hizbollah exploded their second roadside mine, this time beside an Israeli convoy making its way into the old Crusader castle at Beaufort, outside Nabatieh.

Two Israelis, a soldier and a contractor travelling in a civilian car in the convoy, were killed - the Hizbollah had obviously received intelligence about the make-up of the convoy - and the bomb explosion was followed by a fierce gun battle between guerrillas and Israeli troops.

Israel's retaliation included a series of air attacks and artillery bombardments across 20 miles of Lebanon, wounding a

70-year-old Lebanese farmer.

The Hizbollah's deputy secretary general, Sheikh Naim Qassem, said: "Israeli threats will not prevent our military operations from continuing until our land is liberated."

It was not the first time, he said, "that the Israeli enemy has threatened to cover up for its failure to protect its soldiers..."

Mr Landau, president of the Israeli parliamentary commission for foreign affairs and defence, also threatened Syria, which allows Iranian weapons to be transferred through Lebanon to the Hizbollah. "If our soldiers are blown up by mines or command-detonated bombs, Syrian Jeeps can

explode in the same way," Mr Landau said.

The Lebanese Foreign Minister told US Republican Senator Chuck Hagel that Israel could benefit from the American missile attacks by striking at Lebanon and claiming it was only doing the same as the United States.

"If Israel chooses to attack us now, it will try to convey to the world that it is fighting terrorism, even though the situation in the south [of Lebanon] is completely unrelated."

The Hizbollah has no links with Osama bin Laden, whose Arab guerrillas were the target for Mr Clinton's cruise missile attack on Afghanistan last Thursday. Mr bin Laden's

Sunni Wahabi faith would distance him from the largely Shia Lebanese militia, which is funded by Iran - an enemy of Mr bin Laden's Taliban protectors.

But both the Hizbollah and Mr Boueiz condemned the US air raids. "We consider such terrorism more dangerous than the terrorism of organisations we have rejected," Mr Qassem said, in an unflattering reference to the Taliban.

"Mr Clinton does not have the right to violate international laws just to save himself from the internal trouble he has put himself in," Mr Qassem pointedly omitted to mention the bombing of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania earlier this month.

Glitzy rallies draw crowds to SPD

BY INBRE KARACS
in Bonn

GERMANY'S SOCIAL Democrats launched their election campaign at the weekend with spectacular rallies in Berlin, Munich and Bonn, employing all the choreography and gimmicks picked up by their agents in Britain and the US.

Tens of thousands attended open-air rock concerts in the three cities and heard triumphant speeches forecasting victory for Gerhard Schröder in next month's elections.

The mammoth event culminated in Bonn's Rhine meadows on Saturday night to the thumping rhythm of the "Puhdys", the group that has been rocking East Germans since Communist times, and the lyrics of Manfred Mann's Earth Band.

"Let us begin the new times," sang the crowd as the '68-ers on the rostrum clicked their fingers and swayed out of time.

It looked great on television, but not everything has gone according to plan. With five weeks to go, Mr Schröder, something of a stranger to socialist oratory, has already grown hoarse. And the SPD's hot-air balloon - a metaphor for that party's soaring spirit rather than for the substance of the manifesto - could not take off in the high winds.

Although the weather held out until Mr Schröder concluded his short address, rain drenched the estimated 15,000 spectators. They had just enough time to shout "Kohl must go" heartily a few times before running off to the tents.

True to form, the speakers gave little of the party's plans away. Oskar Lafontaine, the SPD's left-leaning chairman, rallied against the social injustices which have allegedly been perpetrated by the Kohl government. He blamed Germany's high unemployment on companies' excessive readiness to sack workers at the first sign of shrinking profit margins.

Mr Schröder, who was introduced as "Germany's next Chancellor", sought to cause as little offence as possible to Mr Lafontaine and his followers, pledging to restore the sick pay and pensions which have been cut by Bonn. Whilst identifying unemployment as the country's greatest scourge, he promised to slap social security levies on part-time jobs that have so far escaped tax.

Finally, Mr Schröder appealed to supporters to go out and preach his gospel. "Talk to people at work in shopping centres, schools and colleges, and tell them what's at stake on 27 September," he said.

Chancellor Kohl, who returned from holiday a week earlier than his challenger, has already begun campaigning. There was no rock music at the arena in Dortmund packed with 18,000 supporters yesterday, only brass bands, acrobats and a mass rendition of the national anthem. Mr Kohl, 68, nevertheless took an unsteady bow to the modern world by incorporating jazz in his programme.

Belgium's centre moves 19 miles

BELGIUM'S LINGUISTIC divisions may be gently propelling the country towards subdividing into two none too friendly states, French-speaking Wallonia and Dutch-speaking Flanders, but Belgium still has a heart - and that's official.

On Saturday, obviously imbued with a continuing faith in Belgium's continuity and future prospects as a united state, a new monument was unveiled marking the exact centre of this small but divided land.

Previously, the centre of Belgium had been located at the village of Iltre. On Saturday, however, a small pyramid was unveiled a full 19 miles away, at the village of Nil-Saint-Vincent-Saint Martin, which lies half way between the capital, Brussels, and the (Francophone) city Namur.

The centre of Belgium was deemed to have moved west thanks to the latest topography. Earlier, the centre of the country had been calculated on the

BY MARCUS TANNER

basis of maps which had failed to take account of a small slice of the Kaiser's Germany that was ceded to Belgium after the First World War, according to the newspaper *Dimanche Matin*.

Eighty years on, thanks to a French geographer, Jean-Georges Affholder, that gain has finally been taken into account when calculating the centre of the country. Evidently the Belgians, both Walloon and Flemish, do not rush to conclusions.

Whether the discovery of a new centre will give Belgium a new sense of unity is another matter. The elections planned for June next year are expected to be decisive, with Walloons threatening to join France if, as expected, the Flemish proceed on their own road to greater autonomy from Brussels. If they carry out their threat, the small pyramid at Nil-Saint-Vincent-Saint Martin will lie in north-eastern France.

INVESTIGATORS UNCOVERED dozens of human skeletons on an island in Indonesia at the weekend, providing conclusive evidence of one of the military's most brutal campaigns of suppression.

Excavations in the province of Aceh, in northern Sumatra, found at least 24 sets of remains, apparently victims of the Indonesian military's attempt to wipe out a Muslim independence movement in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Some of the skulls contained bullet holes, and there were traces of ropes which had been used to bind the victims before they were shot.

"After digging at these sites today, I believe that what the Acehnese people say about killings in the province is true," said Baharuddin Lopa, head of Indonesia's official National Commission on Human Rights yesterday. "This proves Aceh has been a killing field."

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

Mr Lopa's investigators returned to the Indonesian capital Jakarta last night after a three-day investigation during which they visited several sites. Local people believe the graves of some 1,600 people may lie there.

The sites included a beach, waste land, and a house said by locals to have been used by the military as a torture centre. Traces of two bodies, including finger bones, were discovered near the building but locals said that many more bodies had been removed by the military before it abandoned the building last week.

In the three months since the resignation of President Suharto, the Indonesian armed forces (Abri) have been put on the defensive by mounting evidence of the brutal role they played in supporting his 33-year dictatorship.



Suharto: 'excesses' by the military under his rule

In an unprecedented admission last Friday, the Abri commander, General Wiranto, admitted the possibility of "excesses" during military operations in the provinces of Aceh, East Timor and Irian Jaya, and acknowledged that army units had been involved in the

abduction and torture of democracy activists, and the devastating riots which raged through Jakarta in mid-May.

"Abri is aware that in the above incidents, troops were involved," he said. "We are determined to review the military's institutional ethics and leadership so that such violations of procedures do not happen again."

Earlier this month, General Wiranto travelled to Aceh to apologise in person for past abuses and to announce the removal of combat units which were jeered and booed as they began their withdrawal last week.

Small numbers of Muslim insurgents are said to live still in the remote mountains of Aceh but in the early 1990s their activities were effectively curtailed by a brutal military campaign which killed unarmed civilian sympathisers

as well as thousands of the guerrillas themselves.

The National Commission on Human Rights says that it has heard testimony from Acehnese women whose sons and husbands mysteriously disappeared in the province as recently as this May.

Many active rebels have fled over the years to Malaysia where abductions were also reported this year, allegedly under an agreement between the Indonesian and Malaysian authorities.

Mr Lopa's team will soon visit the Sumatran province of Lampung, where separatist activity was met with similar brutality during the 1980s.

President Suharto's successor and former protégé, BJ Habibie, has done away with much of the repressive apparatus of the old regime, but remains opposed to independence for any of the regions claimed by Indonesia.

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BUSINESS

11

BRIEFING

GUS poaches Duddy to be chief



GREAT UNIVERSAL Stores, which swallowed up the high street catalogue chain Argos in a £1.9bn bid earlier this year, has poached Terry Duddy (left) from PC World, an offshoot of Dixons, to head up the operation.

Mr Duddy, 42, will come in as chief executive with main board responsibilities, plugging the gap left by Stuart Rose.

Mr Rose, who won plaudits for his handling of Argos's defence, quit in May. Mr Duddy, the managing director of PC World since January 1995, is credited with having engineered a dramatic expansion in the operation. GUS wants to push Argos upmarket.

Tesco freezes hiring after review

TESCO, Britain's biggest supermarket group, has imposed a hiring freeze after reviewing its business. Staff are being assured that the review, conducted by an external consultancy, will not lead to job cuts: instead the project is intended to target ways of freeing up resources. Tesco reported in June that "challenging" conditions had led to sales slipping in the first 14 weeks of the year.

'Joy of Sex' sold in Reed buyout

REED ELSEVIER is selling its illustrated books division to a management buyout team backed by Kleinwort Benson Development Capital for £33m. The division's titles include *Miller's Antiques Guide*, Marks & Spencer cook books and Mitchell Beazley's *The Joy of Sex*. The disposal marks Reed's final disengagement from consumer publishing, allowing it to concentrate exclusively on scientific, professional and business publishing.

Tandy stays silent over sale

TANDY, the UK electrical chain last night refused to comment on reports that it had been put up for sale by its American owners Radio Shack. According to the reports Charterhouse Bank had been appointed to seek a buyer for the chain which has 265 stores. The chain is understood to be loss-making.

STOCK MARKETS

FTSE 100

INDICES

Index	Close	Wk % ch	Wk % ch	52 wk high	52 wk low	Vol
FTSE 100	5677.00	-22.00	-0.40	6183.7	4382.8	4,023
FTSE 250	5074.50	-108.00	-2.08	5870.9	4428.3	3,985
FTSE 350	2631.80	-1.40	-0.05	2968.1	2141.8	4,024
FTSE All Share	2558.67	-5.53	-0.14	2885.52	2106.59	4,003
FTSE SmallCap	2298.60	-34.80	-1.49	2793.8	2231.6	3,665
FTSE Fledgling	1275.40	-3.50	-0.26	1517.1	1223.2	4,073
FTSE AIM	990.60	-10.40	-1.04	1146.9	963.9	1,372
FTSE EBOC 100	670.44	-	-	-	-	-
Dow Jones	8533.65	101.70	1.21	9387.84	6971.32	1.74
Nikkei	15298.20	174.27	1.15	15994.14	14688.21	0.996
Hang Seng	7327.61	302.92	4.19	16184.3	6544.79	5.443
Dax	5163.51	284.39	5.22	6217.83	3487.24	3.171

INTEREST RATES

UK INTEREST RATES

US INTEREST RATES

MONEY MARKET RATES

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CURRENCIES

POUND

DOLLAR

OTHER INDICATORS

TOURIST RATES

Source: Bloomberg

Source: Thomas Cook

Russia debt restructuring 'hanging in the balance'

THE RUSSIAN financial crisis deepened last night after President Boris Yeltsin sacked the entire cabinet, casting new doubt on a crucial debt restructuring plan which was to have been announced today.

The new government moved last night to quell Western concern of a full or partial default by putting its deputy prime minister, Boris Fyodorov, directly in charge of working out restructuring details. A spokesman for Mr Fyodorov said he was still hopeful a resolution could be announced today.

Mr Yeltsin's dramatic action came less than a week after Russia devalued its currency by a third and suspended pay-

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

ments on government debt in a series of moves which damaged the country's financial credibility and badly shook investor faith in emerging markets.

Share prices in London, New York and other major financial centres were severely hit last week amid fears that the contagion would spread to other heavily indebted economies in Latin America, where Western banks are heavily committed.

The sacked prime minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, had only been in office for four months, having been brought in to replace

Viktor Chernomyrdin, ostensibly as new blood to speed up the pace of financial reform.

But since then the Russian economy has continued to deteriorate to the point where last week's devaluation became unavoidable. Mr Kiriyenko, as the man behind the latest measures, had incurred a spate of criticism from Western banks, many of whom are facing big losses as a result.

Credit Suisse First Boston, which is believed to have suffered most from the crisis, warned that the measures would lead to Russia's being "locked out of the global capital market" at a time when the country needs to lay its hands

on more foreign cash.

However, the decision to remove Mr Kiriyenko appears to be motivated less by a need to placate irate Western bankers than by Mr Yeltsin's own instinct of self-preservation. It followed a strongly-worded resolution in the Duma, Russia's parliament, at the weekend calling on the Russian President himself to resign.

Analysts said that the big business clique which effectively calls the shots in Russia had been prepared to dump Mr Kiriyenko. Mr Chernomyrdin, 60, believed to be one of the largest shareholders in Gazprom, the gas group, has a reputation for backing the interests of tradi-

tional heavy industry against the newer entrepreneurial class emerging from communism.

The sudden dramatic change in government has caught Western investors on the hop. It came as representatives of the big banks were locked in a power struggle with the Russian government over a plan to restructure the government's debt. The initial plan announced last week, but withdrawn in the teeth of storms of protest from disgruntled Western investors who saw it as highly discriminatory against foreigners and tantamount to a partial default.

It was not clear last night whether the talks would continue under the new govern-

ment. However, initial reaction was that it was highly unlikely given the confusion in Moscow last night that the negotiations could be included on any meaningful basis. Talks had been heading for a deal which would have restructured Russia's stock of one- to two-year debt on a five-year basis at a fixed interest rate. Sources said the two sides were still some way apart on whether the deal would include a partial write-off of the government's obligations, to which Western creditors are strongly opposed.

Analysts fear that without the deal which investors expected today, markets could react badly to the news.

Bear rears its head over Wall Street

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

TRADERS AND analysts are braced for more turbulence in financial markets this week. The major fear is that, with the meltdown in Asia and Russia spreading to Latin America and other emerging markets, a worldwide recession may be on the cards.

Markets are taking their cue from the crisis in the world's developing economies, but all eyes are focused on Wall Street. The key question is: are we already in a bear market, or can US equities, and by extension the US economy, weather the storm?

The Dow Jones Industrial Average hovered 9 per cent below its July record by the end of last week, with many professional investors fretting that stocks are headed lower.

Political and economic turmoil around the world is the problem. Latin American bonds plunged on Friday, raising concerns about a global financial meltdown and a big fall in US bank earnings. The dollar surged against the yen, with Japan's banking crisis showing no signs of improving.

There has been a surge in US and European bond markets, seen as a safe haven against the problems in emerging markets as well as a good hedge against a bear market in equities. The rise in the US Treasury market on Friday briefly pushed some bill yields to their lowest levels in over two years as short maturity issues benefited from investors' flight to quality.



Traders in Sao Paulo. Brazil's BOVESPA index finished last week down 2.85 per cent, after a 10 per cent fall triggered circuit breakers. Reuters

have been used to support a spending binge in the US which could now go into reverse.

Mr Petherick specialises in small companies - the hardest-hit stocks. The benchmark Russell 2000 Index is almost 20 per cent below its April high.

The pain is not limited to companies in the Russell, which have a median market capitalisation of \$739m. As of Thursday, the average New York Stock Exchange stock was off 29 per cent from its high, while the typical Nasdaq share was off 39 per cent, according to Salomon Smith Barney equity analyst, Jeffrey Warantz.

"You're seeing the psychology impact stocks more than earnings," said Robert Bissell, president and chief investment officer at Wells Capital Management. "People are mesmerised by terrorism and emerging market problems. They don't know what's to come. It's unsettling."

In another worrying indicator, put/call ratios calculated by the Chicago Board Options Exchange show that investors bought relatively "more put" options than "call" options in recent days - the most since 1995, by one measure, and a signal that most speculators are expecting stocks to fall.

Sainsbury shifts to trackers

J SAINSBURY is switching £300m of its pension fund assets out of active fund management into passive index tracking, replacing Mercury Asset Management with Hermes Liberty International Pensions in the process.

The move is indicative of a wider switch among pension funds away from active fund management into trackers - funds which aim to mirror the performance of the FTSE All Share index.

For Hermes Liberty it is the biggest mandate won since the

company was set up last year as a joint venture between Liberty International and Hermes, which manages the Post Office and British Telecom pension funds.

Sainsbury's said it had become concerned about the dominance of a few major players in the UK index-tracking market, and was therefore pleased to be backing a comparatively new entrant. At present the market for indexing is served almost exclusively by two players, Legal & General and BGI (part of Barclays).

Adrian White, deputy chief executive of Hermes Pensions Management, said the ability to compete in tracking management was largely driven by size. Hermes is able to provide alternative management systems to the big two as it already manages the Post Office and BT pension schemes on this basis.

The mandate is also unusual as it has been awarded on a fixed cash fee basis. In active fund management, fees are becoming increasingly performance related, while tracker

funds have tended to charge a percentage of the funds under management. That means the fee rises and falls with the index.

Sainsbury's decision is another blow to Mercury and other houses specialising in stock selection, a form of investment known as "active management".

All four of London's big active fund managers have failed to match the rise in the stock market in recent years. Several turned bearish, wrongly in the event, while others targeted poorly-performing sectors.

US utilities on Scottish Power hit list

SCOTTISH POWER has drawn up a hit list of around a dozen US utilities it might target for merger talks in a bid to break into the US market.

They include Cinergy, the Cincinnati-based power utility, and Houston Industries, whose attempt to merge with Ed Wallis's PowerGen collapsed recently.

Scottish Power pulled out of a £3bn deal with Florida Progress earlier this year, just days before it was due to be announced, after failing to agree a price. The chief executive, Ian Robinson, is still keen on the US market despite the setback.

Scottish Power yesterday dismissed reports that it had homed in on Cinergy in particular. However, a spokesman confirmed that the group is still actively looking at the US. "This is speculation. We have looked at a lot of companies. Things are at the very early stages," he said.

A possible stumbling block in merger talks with Cinergy is its half share in Midlands Electricity, which Cinergy owns jointly with GPU. Scottish Power already owns a rival regional electricity company, Manweb. However, this regulatory issue could be resolved by GPU buying out its partner.

PowerGen is also keen to find partners in the US after the collapse of the Houston Industries talks. Confusingly, PowerGen

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

failed to consummate merger talks with Cinergy last year.

Insiders attribute the failure to a clash of personalities between PowerGen's Ed Wallis and Jim Rogers, Cinergy's hard-nosed chief executive. National Power, long regarded here as a takeover target, is weighing up a US move too.

The \$230bn (£140bn) US market is highly fragmented with upwards of 200 companies, many smaller than the big UK players in terms of both sales and market capitalisation.

US companies are coming under pressure to merge and expand overseas because of deregulation and greater competition in their domestic market. UK groups are seen as attractive partners for the US firms because of their greater experience in operating in a competitive energy market. Plans are under way in 16 states to deregulate.

But tying up transatlantic deals has proved much easier said than done. British Energy, the nuclear which is buying one of the reactors at the notorious Three Mile Island site in a joint venture with Peco Energy of Philadelphia and National Power, has established a small foothold in the US. But so far there has been no substantial transatlantic action.

Sun Life name to vanish as Axa group rebrands

SUN LIFE, one of the oldest names in the UK life and pensions industry, is to vanish as part of the global rebranding of member companies in the Axa group, with owns 72 per cent of the British assurer.

The company would then effectively become the UK quoted arm of Axa, the giant French-based insurance group headed by Claude Bebear.

The first step - set to take place within the next few weeks - will be to ditch the Provincial part of the name and shorten it to Sun Life. However, Mark Wood, the chief executive, says the group has already decided that the Sun Life name - a household name since the company's foundation in 1810 - will also be ditched at an early opportunity.

BY ANDREW GARFIELD

"We are constantly being confused with Sun Life of Canada with whom we have no connection, and the SunAlliance part of Royal & SunAlliance," said Mr Wood.

Sun Life, which already operates to all intents and purposes as the UK arm of the Axa group, would lose its separate identity, although Mr Bebear is keen to keep the UK quote.

Axa inherited the stake in Sun Life and Provincial when it merged with UAR, the privatised French insurance group, nearly two years ago.

Mr Bebear, a passionate believer in the virtues of European Monetary Union, believes the Continent will move very swiftly after January 1999 to a sin-

gle stock market for the whole of Europe, which would ultimately include Britain.

The group will be offering euro-denominated insurance policies to corporate customers in this country from later this year.

Sun Life was floated in May 1996 - less than a year after UAP took full control by buying out the South African businessman, Donald Gordon, who jointly owned the company. Following the UAP merger, AXA injected its existing UK life business, Equity & Law.

Mr Bebear is keen to expand Axa further in the UK, but has so far failed to find a suitable acquisitions target. There has been speculation that Norwich Union might be on Axa's shopping list.

Charter for marketing profession

MARKETING people are to get their own professional charter, allowing them to call themselves chartered, and putting them on par with accountants and surveyors.

This is the first new profession in more than 30 years. Baroness O'Callaghan, former director of London's Barbican arts centre and now non-executive director of Tesco and British Airways, is in line to become one of the first properly chartered marketers.

It is expected that around 2,000 people would initially qualify. The big problem has been what the practitioners should be called. Some favour marketing professionals, others marketers. They have opted to call themselves chartered marketers.

Euro area to swim against global tide

THE GLOBAL economic news seems to be getting gloomier by the week. Asia looks set to be in a slump for another year; the United States economy is rapidly running out of fuel; the United Kingdom is about to flirt with recession; and now a crisis in Russia.

The Euro area, those eleven European countries set to form EMU at the start of next year, looked set to be a region of growth in an otherwise gloomy world. While business confidence in the United States, Japan, and the United Kingdom has already fallen to recession-like levels, Euro area businesses have remained remarkably upbeat, with confidence close to all-time highs. But can the Euro area continue to swim against an increasingly adverse global tide? Most likely it can, but being the only region of growth in a depressed world will be an uphill struggle.

Although the Euro is a relatively closed economy, with only 10 per cent of the region's GDP coming from exports to the rest of the world, it is not immune to developments elsewhere. Over the coming year, the region will be severely buffeted by global headwinds. Perhaps the biggest shock will be the end of the US spending spree. Although the US economy has been cruising nicely for a while, over the past year it has climbed significantly



DAVID MACKIE

Business confidence in the US, Japan and the UK has fallen, but the Euro area is upbeat

higher, as individuals have spent some of their stock market gains. But this fuel is rapidly running out, and the economy will lose a lot of altitude in the second half of the year. Since Euro area exports to the US have been growing at a close on 25 per cent pace, the end of the US spending spree will have significant impact on Euro area firms.

The nature of the Asian headwinds will change. After contracting by around 15 per cent in the first half of the year, Euro area exports to Asia are likely to stabilise in the coming months. While a recovery

in Asian demand is still some way off, the worst appears to be over. But although Euro area exporters to Asia will feel a little better, firms competing with imports from Asia face a tough time ahead. Asian firms are only now responding to last year's dramatic improvement in their competitiveness, the result of their sharp currency depreciations. Over the coming quarters, Asian producers will make significant inroads into Euro area markets. Expect to see a lot more Japanese and Korean cars on Europe's highways.

Nearer to home, Euro area exports to the UK have already begun to slow and a further deterioration is in store. At best, the UK economy will have a bumpy landing, with GDP growth not much above zero next year. At worst, it could slip into a mild recession. This is probably necessary to unwind the domestic inflation pressures that have built over the past two years, and ensure that the inflation target is hit. But it represents a significant turnaround in an important market for Euro area firms. After slowing to a 5 per cent pace by the middle of this year, Euro area exports to the UK are likely to contract next year.

It is clear that the Russian crisis is only the most recent headwind to buffet the Euro area economy. Over the coming year, Russia is likely

to experience a deep recession and a sharply lower currency. In fact, the recession has already begun. In July, Russian GDP was 4.5 per cent lower than a year ago, and industrial activity plunged over 9 per cent. The recent financial turmoil will drive the economy even lower. What impact will this have on the Euro area? The direct trade links between Russia and the Euro area are quite small: Only 3 per cent of Euro area exports go to Russia. Far more important are the financial linkages. Euro area banks have considerable loan exposure to Russia, worth almost \$50 billion. German banks are by far the most heavily exposed, accounting for around 60 per cent of the total. Clearly, a significant build-up of bad debts would act as a drag on Euro area activity, as banks retrenched in domestic markets. The other risk from Russia is a spillover into Eastern and Central European countries, which have been an important export market for Euro area firms. While Russia's problems are specific to Russia, contagion is always a risk.

If the Euro area economy is to continue growing over the coming year, it will need to stand on its own two feet. This would be a significant change in the region's performance. Over the past few years, Euro area activity has relied heavily

EUROPE'S EXPOSURE TO EMERGING MARKETS

	Merchandise Exports % of total extra EU exports	Exposure of European banks US\$ billion
Eastern & Central Europe	14.5	99
of which: Russia	3.1	50
Czech Republic	2.2	8
Poland	3.2	7
Hungary	1.6	9
Latin America	5.7	175
Emerging Asia	17.1	179
Middle East	6.7	33
Africa	8.6	45

on exports to the rest of the world. This option is no longer available. For Euro area GDP to expand at the 2.5 to 3 per cent pace seen over the past 18 months, domestic demand, which accounts for 90 per cent of activity in the region, needs to step up to the plate.

So, can domestic demand pull the Euro area economy against the global tide? Most likely, it can. For almost the first time this decade, central banks and governments are both working to promote growth. The average short-term interest rate in the Euro area is 3.75 per cent. This stance of monetary policy looks very stimulative, at least judging by the acceleration in credit across the region and the sharp pick-up in construction ac-

tivity. And after dampening demand growth for several years, government fiscal policy has turned neutral this year. And next year, lower taxes and higher public spending look set to boost demand.

This turnaround in the policy environment has been reflected in household and business confidence. Consumer confidence in the Euro is now at the highest level since 1990. And individuals are more optimistic about employment prospects than at any time since 1989. This confidence is fully justified by recent developments in the labour market, with rising vacancies and falling unemployment across the region. With real incomes growing, thanks to lower inflation and higher employment, and confidence

at a buoyant level, the ingredients for a strong recovery in household spending are in place.

The prospects for business spending are less clear. Business confidence has held up at the high levels reached last year. But global economic weakness means that there is plenty of spare capacity, so Euro area firms have little incentive to buy new plant and machinery. But there is plenty of room to update the capital stock, as has happened in the United States this decade. Since the start of 1994, capital spending in the United States has increased by almost 40 per cent, while in the Euro area it has risen by only 10 per cent. Much of the increase in the US has involved firms incorporating the latest technology to improve their competitiveness. To prosper in an increasingly global marketplace, Euro area firms need to do likewise.

So, the 10 per cent of Euro area GDP driven by exports will feel significant global headwinds in the coming year. But the 90 per cent of Euro area GDP due to domestic spending looks set to pick up strongly. If it does, then the global weakness will simply restrain Euro area growth, rather than derail it. This will ensure that the Euro area swims against the global tide.

David Mackie is an economist at JP Morgan.

Ladbroke lands a double, but won't lift hotel gloom

LADBROKE IS unlikely to lift the gloom which has engulfed hotel shares when it produces its interim figures this week.

The betting-to-hotels group is expected to achieve a commendable £20m or so profits advance to around £120m. The hotels will have performed relatively well, but gaming profits will have galloped ahead.

Like the rest of the hotel industry, Ladbroke's shares have been under pressure. They finished last week at 255p against a 12-month high of 360p.

Hotel stocks are so unloved that the industry would appear to be in deep recession. Yet trading, by most accounts, is reasonable, and there is the rumble of takeover action.

Many hotel shares have been lumbered with a Fawley Towers image because of worries about slower consumer spending and the impact of the strong pound on tourism. But Ladbroke's Hilton Hotel portfolio has an international spread, with lower Asian profits offset by a stronger Continental performance. On the home front, profits could be up by as much as 10 per cent.

But it is the betting contribution which should underline that bookies do not leave much to luck. BT Alex Brown is looking for Ladbroke's gambling profits to shoot up by a third.

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

The group still faces uncertainties. Its takeover of the Coral betting shops from Bass looks likely to be nibbled for apparent reasons.

Ladbroke had bet on the deal being cleared, and had handed £362.7m to Bass and made arrangements to trim its betting shop chain to accommodate regulatory problems.

It may still get the go-ahead, but have to unload more outlets than originally intended. However, with 2,600 shops and 35 per cent of the market, chairman Peter George could find himself forced to sell Coral.

Still, this would not be a disaster. Bass may not want Coral and Ladbroke may not be able to have it, but others are likely to be tempted. A trade sale, or one to a financial group, are

possible; so is a flotation.

On hotels, Ladbroke's relationship with the Hilton Hotel Corporation of the US continues to intrigue. HCC runs the Hiltons in the US, Ladbroke in the rest of the world. They have a trading pact, and there have been suggestions that HCC will take a 5 per cent stake in Ladbroke. But the stock market expects the two to merge in the fullness of time.

Still Ladbroke, even without HCC, seems ready to strengthen its hotel operations. It was, after all, an unsuccessful bidder for the Inter-Continental chain which went to Bass.

Rolls-Royce, with its shares feeling the impact of the Asian crisis, should at least produce robust interim profits - say £155m, a 33 per cent increase.

Hardly a week goes by without Rolls announcing a new aero-engine contract. Its order book stands at £8bn. But Asia represents almost a third of that, and the market is anxious to know whether the rest of the world is making up for any cancellations or deferrals.

Some say Rolls is accepting exceptionally narrow margins for most of its contracts, banking on subsequent sales and servicing rewards.

Reckitt & Coleman is among those companies which have undergone a makeover, ditch-

ing its food and soft drink operations to concentrate on pharmaceuticals, toiletries and household products.

Interim profit estimates have been pulled back recently and only modest progress is now expected, say £170m against £166m last time.

Retailer Allied Carpets is due to roll out its belated year's figures this week. They have been held back by accountancy problems at some stores which, it seems, booked profits on sales when orders were placed rather than waiting until the deal was completed. Last week two directors quit, apparently taking the blame for the problem which hit profits.

Even before the incorrect sales bookings were discovered Allied produced a profits warning, prompting the market to lower its expectations from £20m to £13m. Now the guess is the company will manage around £10m against £16.2m.

The shares have been suspended at 74.5p since the accountancy errors came to light. Once the profits are known trading is expected to resume. The shares were placed at 215p two years ago, and reached 320p two Christmases ago. Since then it has been all downhill as the retail recession has hit the high street, devastating the shares of shop keepers.

Law firm mops up after a 'rainmaker' departs

ASHURST Morris Crisp, the City law firm, has moved swiftly to fill the hole created when Stephen Mostyn-Williams defected to a rival firm as head of banking a month ago. The firm has promoted Gonzalo Fernandez as a partner in the banking department.

Mr Mostyn-Williams, a flamboyant, designer-clad father of six, took three Ashurst partners with him to US firm Shearman & Sterling. This caused a great gnashing of teeth at Ashurst's, since Mr Mostyn-Williams was the main link man with Goldman Sachs and Bankers Trust, two of Ashurst's choicest clients. Indeed, he was often referred to as a "rainmaker". To add insult to injury, the two lucrative accounts have followed Mr Mostyn-Williams to the American firm.

Ashurst's has traditionally been strong in the equity markets and wanted to extend this strength into the debt markets - something Mr Mostyn-Williams did brilliantly - but tensions then developed with Ashurst's existing equity team, apparently.

BOB DIAMOND, boss of Barclays Capital, Barclays Bank's investment banking arm, has been bombarding his work force in Canary Wharf and his colleagues in the Barclays em-

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



pire with e-mails over the last few weeks. This wouldn't be so noteworthy if it wasn't for the fact that Mr Diamond is, theoretically at least, on holiday. He should be sunning himself on Nantucket Island, a fashionable investment banking vacation retreat just off Cape Cod on the US East Coast. But, as his minions back in Blighty are painfully aware, he seems to be perpetually bent over a laptop.

FURTHER evidence of American e-mail mania is provided by Paul Krugman, the famous US economist from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). We e-mailed him this week asking if he would like to do an article for us. Mr Krug-

man replied by e-mail that he was keen on the idea, but that since he was on holiday on "the Great Barrier Reef" he wouldn't be able to do it for two or three weeks. Do these people ever rest?

BY SOME bizarre mischance a highly private and confidential letter from a publishing company to Marjorie Scardino, chief executive of Pearson Group, has found its way onto my desk. The letter is from Chris Morrison, managing director of Evandale Publishing, of High Holborn, London, and is dated 18 August.

In the letter Mr Morrison attacks the Financial Times group, a Pearson subsidiary, for planning to launch a newsletter titled "European Retail Analyst" in competition with Evandale's own nine-year-old publication "European Retail".

Mr Morrison writes: "This move follows the launch about two years ago of the FT's 'Virtual Finance' newsletter, nine months after Evandale Publishing started producing its own publication, interesting (sic) also called 'Virtual Finance International'."

"Those of a suspicious mind might discern a copycat mentality within your group, and if this exists I suggest that you step on it immediately since it

brings very little credit on your organisation."

Pearson says it hasn't yet received Mr Morrison's letter, and could I fax a copy of it to them? The things we diarists have to do.

AND FINALLY, please welcome the new chief executive of DGAA Hornellie (the charity formerly known as the Distressed Gentlefolk's Aid Association) - the aptly named Jonathan Welfare.

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SPORT

Playing with a legend: A former West Indies captain shows he has lost none of his class or charisma on club circuit

Richardson is still a man for all seasons

IT WAS supposed to be a straightforward interview with Richie Richardson, the former West Indies captain who this summer has been plying his trade with an East Kent League Cricket Club called Suttonians.

Still only 35, Richardson, one of the most gifted batsmen in the world during the late 1980s and early 1990s, and a man who only retired from Test cricket a couple of years ago, has been clouting the ball to all parts of various Kentish boundaries as he has become, at least in the south-east of England, the star attraction once again.

A nice, gentle afternoon's work lay in store, watching the master pulverise a hapless bunch of opposition club bowlers, while I helped myself to a couple of cucumber sandwiches, a large slice of chocolate cake and a cup of tea.

Then David Folb, chairman of Suttonians, and the man who enticed Richardson over from the West Indies much to his club's incredulity, made a suggestion. "If you're any good, why don't you play for us?"

I used to play a great deal of cricket, first at school and then, in my early twenties, for a Wiltshire Village club. Since then, however, my whites had been donned only on a couple of occasions. Still, the old competitive juices began to flow, and the invitation to play alongside Richardson proved too much of an opportunity to turn down.

Despite my lack of match practice, I fancied my chances - at least until John Steer, one of the Suttonians Committee Members, described the calibre of my fellow team-mates. Apart from Richardson, Suttonians also boasted Amitava Banerjee, a young opening batsman and first-change fast bowler who happened to play for Bengal and was on the verge of making the Indian Test squad. They also featured Robert Joseph, a 16-year-old fast bowler who has already played for Antigua's under-16 side.

Suttonians, named because their home ground is at Maidstone's Sutton Valence School, were playing away at Sherwood Cricket Club, whose own ground faces the rather intimidating and featureless walls of Chatham's Borstal Prison. Here I met my colleagues for the day, including a relaxed and friendly Richardson.

"We're batting, and you're going to open for us," he told me. "We'll have to talk later. Good luck." My already dented confidence quickly evaporated once I saw the bouncy wicket, heard that I'd be facing Kent's Under-19 opening fast bowler, and was then asked to join in a prayer in the team dressing-room.

After surviving a hostile first over, including a first ball that I might have nicked if I had been a better quality batsman, and a third ball that nearly decapitated me, it was time to go on the offensive on the basis that, sooner rather than later, I would be out. With Banerjee and Richardson to follow in the batting order, there was no point in hanging around.

A half-volley on the off stump was sliced inches over backward point's diving hand for four, followed by a cover drive boundary which, had it been straight at cover rather than between him and extra cover, would have been a simple catch. Richardson, as the temporary umpire, had a bird's eye view of all this. "Feeling better now?" he asked, surveying my face. He added knowingly: "It's good to be nervous."



IAN STAFFORD

A few overs later I managed to dig out an inswinging ball for four through the slips, and then pulled a short ball for another boundary. Richardson gave me the thumbs up and muttered: "That last shot was played like a West Indian."

Somehow I had raced to 21 and couldn't believe my luck, having envisaged a humiliating duck. However, just when the dream about a half-century began to form, I lost my off stump to a fast, low delivery.

Although Banerjee was run out for just six runs, Richardson sometimes stroked and caressed, and other times thumped and belted the ball to all points of the field. Once, after a straight six, the other Suttonians players rushed round to the car park to make sure none of



Richardson sets off on another run

their cars had been hit. In no time he reached an unbeaten 79 and declared the innings on 237-4.

Over tea Richardson gave me his verdict. "Not bad, considering how little you've played recently. You were too nervous, especially against the quick bowler. You must be positive against these guys. And I thought your strokes were a bit on the chancy side. Quite a few flew in the air, didn't they? Still, you did OK, and you gave us a good start."

Sherwood, despite an impressive innings from one of their opening batsmen, soon subsided to Suttonians' bowlers, and especially to the pace of Robert Joseph who bumped, battered and bruised most of the early and middle order. Awarded the Richie Richardson Scholarship at Sutton Valence School, he is a name to look out for.

Right now, however, Richardson's the man, and as he led his team off the pitch with a 99-run win under his belt, having found himself in the unusual position of wicket-keeper, he seemed more than satisfied with his day's work. "Always good to win, you know," he said, smiling. "No matter the level. Now, let's talk."

And so we did. After an 86-Test career, spanning 12 years between 1983 and 1995, Richardson had grown tired and disillusioned with international cricket. "Playing at such an intense level for 12 months every year for so long proved too much for me. I was getting bored, and I couldn't motivate myself any longer."

"I was trying, but it was turning into a chore each day. I just wasn't looking forward to playing cricket when I woke up, and it was affecting my game. Being captain of the West Indies was a great honour, of course, but it made all this worse. I had no time in the day for myself."

So Richardson quit. "I wanted to enjoy life, relax a little," he explained. Two years ago his agent introduced him to David Folb, who recognised the attributes Richardson could bring to Suttonians Cricket Club, Sutton Valence School, and to Kent cricket in general. Moreover, he was prepared to pay for the services of such a famous name.

"It was exactly what I wanted, and needed," Richardson admitted. "I've had a great deal of fun, and much support from everyone at the club. I play maybe four or five times a week, as well as make a lot of charity appearances. I also enjoy assisting youngsters at the school. That's where the future lies."

Does he, as his display that afternoon suggested, find the playing side easy? "Well, it wasn't that easy to go from Test level to the Kent League, and some of the wickets have been difficult to bat on, so I've had to apply myself." And I bet every bowler he faces is hoping to dine out on how he claimed the former West Indies captain's wicket? "Oh yes, for sure," he replied, taking a long swig of beer. "But that's OK. I like a challenge."

Richardson still plays at a higher grade of cricket away from the English summer, and expects to play for the Windward Islands in this winter's Red Stripe tournament, as he did last year. He is also off to Kuala Lumpur in a fortnight's time to play for Antigua at the Commonwealth Games.

Does he ever miss playing for the West Indies? Some say he could still make the Test team. "No, not really," he replied. "Sometimes I watch the boys on television and think it would be nice to be playing with them. I'm seeing the ball as well as ever and I know I can still bat, but I want to see youngsters coming through for the West Indies."

"That's been our problem, you see. A few years ago, when we were the best, we didn't look after our future cricketers. We took it for granted that we'd carry on beating everyone. We ignored the grass roots. That's why we're struggling, and now kids in the West Indies are starting to play basketball and American football instead."

Still, it's not Richardson's problem, not any more. He wants to see out his cricketing days playing for Suttonians. "That will suit me down to the ground." He admitted, as he changed in the dressing-room and congratulated his players. He is known simply as "God" now to his team-mates who clearly adore his on and off-field companionship.

I, too, enjoyed his captaincy that afternoon, returning home as happy as a child on his birthday. OK, so 21 is hardly a massive score, but it gained Richie Richardson's seal of approval. That will do for me.



All in a day's work for Richie Richardson as he goes from a wicketkeeper getting out of the way of a direct hit at the stumps (above), to doing the job of umpire, in which role (below), he offers words of comfort to Ian Stafford

Robert Hallam



Petty, paranoid, and also pretty dull

Glenn Hoddle: My 1998 World Cup Story
By Glenn Hoddle with David Davies (Andre Deutsch) 17.99

SO NOW we know why Glenn Hoddle always has a notepad on his lap at England matches, he was scribbling down notes for his diary. We do not, despite the headlines, know an awful lot more about the man or his methods but his book, now on public sale, does confirm a number of suspicions and prejudices about both.

Of the details Gazza's tantrum, Chris Sutton's banishment, Hoddle's inability to understand David Beckham, and his irritation with

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Alex Ferguson, Terry Venables and Ken Bates were all guessed at by regular observers of the England scene. They were rarely printed however because Hoddle had - we thought - been too clever to divulge his feelings directly.

How wrong we were. For 30 pieces of silver (or, rather, a sum probably approaching £500,000 by the time advance, serialisation and royalties are collected) he has provided more ammunition than his many critics can have dreamed of

with which to stir imagined or actual feuds.

As for his personality, as one Hod-watcher noted: "This is a man who has spent most of his adult life trying to discover who he is. What chance has anyone else got?" Well, there are a few clues here, both direct and indirect. His obsession with Eileen Drewery, the faith healer, has been well charted but his belief in astrology, while no surprise, was previously unknown. There are also indications of pettiness, egotism, paranoia and insecurity.

Despite the furore the bulk of the book is dull as it details the minutiae of life in camp England from the films they watch to the golf scores.

Much seems designed to prove Hoddle's assertion that the team was the best-prepared ever to leave our shores as he writes about visits to the dentist, dietary rules and video compilations designed to inform or inspire players. This is fair enough but England are hardly the only team doing these things. The lack of preparedness for penalties is no more satisfactorily explained than at the time.

Indeed, football detail is lacking with limited description of both the thought processes behind selection and substitution and the strengths, weakness and football habits of players and opponents.

The book is certainly designed to

reach a wide audience being more Jeffrey Archer than Martin Amis. No one reading it will need much recourse to a dictionary and while it rolls along speedily enough it lacks vividness of language or image. There is also confusion with tenses as if part of the book has been written as a proper diary and the rest from a retrospective viewpoint.

It is too early to say how this book will come to be viewed. The controversy around it may be seen as a bit in a successful reign or as a crucial element in a failed one. This really depends how it affects the players as, like any manager, Hoddle will stand or fall by their deeds, not his words.

Glenn Moore

THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

- 1 Rothmans Football Yearbook 1998-99, edited by Glenda Rollin (Headline, paperback, £17.99)
 - 2 News of the World Football Annual 1998-99, edited by Eric Brown (Unwin Press, paperback, £5.99)
 - 3 Kick Off - The Official Premier League Fans Guide 1998/99, edited by Mike Ivey (Sidon Press, paperback, £5.99)
 - 4 Playfair Football Annual 1998-99, edited by Glenda Rollin (Headline, paperback, £4.99)
 - 5 Left Foot in the Grave, by Garry Nelson (Collins Willow, paperback, £6.99)
 - 6 Spread Betting, by Andrew Burke (Rowton Press, paperback, £8.95)
 - 7 O Almanaque Do Futebol Brasileiro 97/98, Marco Aurelio Klein (Escala, paperback, £22.99)
 - 8 Playfair Football Who's Who 1999, edited Jack Rollin, (Headline, paperback, £8.99)
 - 9 I'm a Little Special - A Muhammad Ali Reader, edited by Gerald Early, (Yellow Jersey Press, hardback, £16.99)
 - 10 The Rugby League Challenge Cup - An Illustrated History, by Les Hoole (Breedon Books, hardback, £14.99)
- Chart compiled by Sportspages, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London (0171 240 9604) and St Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 833 8530) www.sportspages.co.uk

JP 11/10/150

Lewis relives the legend of Mary Peters

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM
in Budapest

WHEN DENISE Lewis stood on the podium as European heptathlon champion on Saturday evening, watching the image of a fluttering Union Jack on the Nepstadion screen, the sight moved Britain's other great women's multi-events champion, Mary Peters, to tears.

The Irishwoman, whose narrow defeat of the German favourite Heidi Rosendahl at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich was one of the outstanding performances in British athletics history, stood only yards away from Lewis, having taken part in the medal ceremony.

It was a fitting gesture that concluded two days of involvement which saw two great athletes link across a generation.

"Someone told me beforehand that there was a bigger surprise waiting for me as well as the medal," Lewis said. "And it was Mary P."

"She had been there all through the competition, on the warm-up track just being a presence. Especially before the long jump she gave me a big hug, a big kiss, and said she'd be there with me in spirit. Those small touches really give you that oomph."

"I'm the most successful woman in multi-events after Mary, and I think when she sees me out there she relives everything. She really knows what it's about, she knows how it feels. Those agonising hours in between events, and those mistakes that you make and what it does to your confidence." Lewis's confidence in the months leading up to these championships was buffeted by an ankle injury that, at one stage, put her contention here in jeopardy. But she comforted herself with the fact that some of her leading rivals, including the defending champion Sabine Braun, of Germany, and the Pole who eventually won the silver, Urszula Włodarczyk, were also recovering from or carrying injuries.

This was a competition that

was all about the survival of the fittest or, rather, the least unfit. And the 25-year-old Wolverhampton athlete proved strongest in both mind and body to add a prestigious gold to the Olympic bronze and world silver she has won in successive years.

A winning javelin throw of 50.16 metres sent her into the last event, the 800 metres, with more than eight seconds in hand over her nearest challenger. But she felt the turning point occurred in the first event of the concluding day when she beat the overnight leader, Natalya Sazanovich, in the long jump – supposedly one

Olympic Games of 2000, where Lewis believes the present Olympic champion, Ghada Shouaa of Syria, will be able to defend her title despite the back injury that has prevented her competing for more than a year.

Three weeks from now, Lewis will defend the Commonwealth title she won in her breakthrough year of 1994, after which she will have just three weeks off before beginning her preparations for the 1999 World Championships in Seville. As last winter, she will work in Amsterdam with the man now in charge of her training, the Dutch multi-events coach, Charles van Commenee.

Asked if she would swap everything she has won to emulate Peters with the Olympic title in 2000, she responded without hesitation. "Yes. Wouldn't anybody? This is why we're in the event. I am a champion person – the feeling, looking at the flags, seeing the Union Jack, the support, the preparation, getting it right, trying to get it right, making mistakes and having to rectify them. It's something special." The experience obviously holds good for Colin Jackson, too. Eight years after winning his first European title as a 23-year-old, the Welshman collected his third European gold with a time of 13.02sec, his

fastest for four years, and 0.06sec inside his championship record of 1994.

He recorded the same time in his semi-final, and had he not hit the eighth hurdle in both races, he would have achieved his secondary aim here of returning to sub-13 seconds territory.

"Even at my age I'm still learning," he said. "But the important thing here was to win. Putting 13.02's back-to-back within an hour, that's fine enough." Now both Jackson and his coach, Malcolm Arnold, believe that the opportunity is there to get back among the Americans and establish himself as a serious contender for next year's world title.



Jackson: Third European gold

of the Belarus athlete's strongest events.

The camaraderie of the heptathlon is such that many of Lewis's rivals came up to encourage her before the 800 metres. "All the girls were aware that I was up for the gold, and they were saying things like 'Good luck' and 'Come on, Denise, you can do this'." Braun, who had been seeking to add a third European title to the world gold she took ahead of the Briton last year, was one of the first to congratulate her. Later that evening, the German bought champagne to help Lewis celebrate.

Braun plans to be back in top shape for next year's World Championships and the

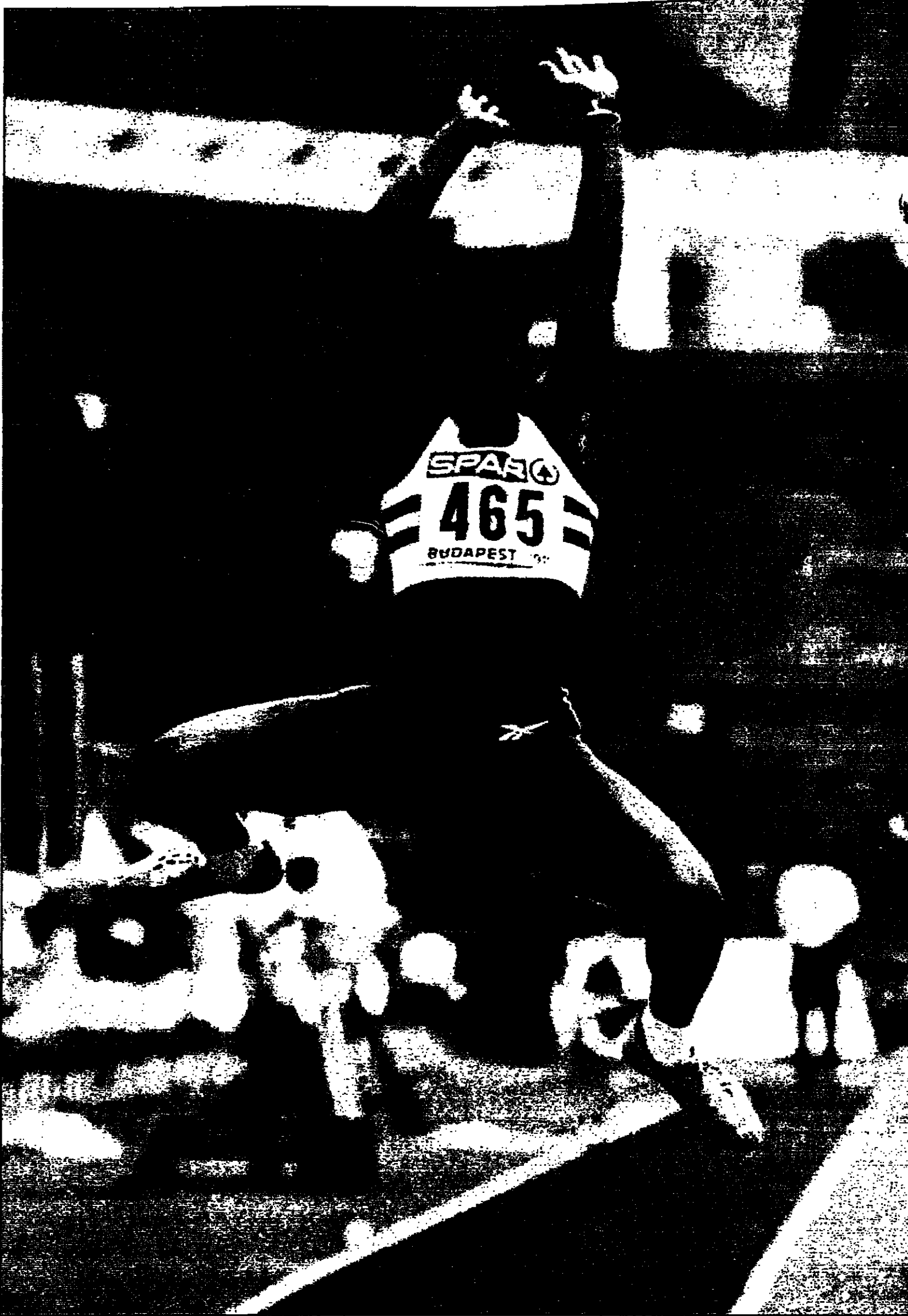
French Caribbean island of Martinique.

But the European Athletic Association switched the venue to avoid forcing athletes to travel a long distance in Olympic year. Next year's competition will now be in Paris with Florence the hosts in 2001.

The International Stadium in Gateshead first staged the one-

man per event competition in 1989 when Britain's men won for the first time.

Meanwhile, newly crowned European 200 metres champion Doug Walker could be denied a hero's return to Scotland. Walker was hoping to compete for Britain in Glasgow next weekend, but is having treatment on a niggling knee injury.



Denise Lewis takes a giant leap towards the European heptathlon gold by beating the overnight leader in Saturday's long jump

Empics

Gateshead's European Cup

IN ANOTHER triumph for British athletics following a golden weekend on track and field, Gateshead has been awarded the European Cup in 2000, it was confirmed in Budapest yesterday.

The event, that Britain's men won in St Petersburg in June, had originally been due to take place in the

French Caribbean island of Martinique.

But the European Athletic Association switched the venue to avoid forcing athletes to travel a long distance in Olympic year. Next year's competition will now be in Paris with Florence the hosts in 2001.

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WEEKEND RESULTS FROM BUDAPEST

SATURDAY

Men

Triple jump (16.95m or top 12 qualify)
Group A: 1 G. G. (Belarus) 17.0m; 2 J. Edwards (GB) 16.97; 3 V. Sokov (Rus) 16.82; 4 Z. Cherdjiev (Mug) 16.69; 5 Z. Colinger (Rus) 16.54; 6 R. Balazs (Hun) 16.50; 7 R. Chapado (Esp) 16.49; 8 A. Ralston (Uth) 16.39; 9 V. Oshchepko (Ukr) 16.34; 11 A. Oshchepko (Ukr) 16.26; 12 J. Gower (Uth) 16.12; 13 C. Molegrou (Ger) 16.10; 14 C. Bona (Rom) 15.91; 15 N. R. (Bel) 15.94; 16 P. (Bel) 15.87; 17 A. (Bel) 15.87; 18 J. D. (Bel) 15.87; 19 K. (Bel) 15.87; 20 K. (Bel) 15.87; 21 K. (Bel) 15.87; 22 K. (Bel) 15.87; 23 K. (Bel) 15.87; 24 K. (Bel) 15.87; 25 K. (Bel) 15.87; 26 K. (Bel) 15.87; 27 K. (Bel) 15.87; 28 K. (Bel) 15.87; 29 K. (Bel) 15.87; 30 K. (Bel) 15.87; 31 K. (Bel) 15.87; 32 K. (Bel) 15.87; 33 K. (Bel) 15.87; 34 K. (Bel) 15.87; 35 K. (Bel) 15.87; 36 K. (Bel) 15.87; 37 K. (Bel) 15.87; 38 K. (Bel) 15.87; 39 K. (Bel) 15.87; 40 K. (Bel) 15.87; 41 K. (Bel) 15.87; 42 K. (Bel) 15.87; 43 K. (Bel) 15.87; 44 K. (Bel) 15.87; 45 K. (Bel) 15.87; 46 K. (Bel) 15.87; 47 K. (Bel) 15.87; 48 K. 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Hick and Salisbury to determine Ashes fate

CRICKET
BY DEREK PRINGLE

GONE ARE the days when a one-off Test called for one-off selections. With the Ashes beckoning, David Graveney and his panel have kept alterations to a minimum and providing Nasser Hussain is fit, Ben Hollis is included in place of Andrew Flintoff. It is the only change from the side that won at Headingley.

In some ways, the selectors have included in order to exclude and some players such as Ian Salisbury and Graeme Hick know that Sri Lanka at the Oval represents the last chance saloon to be involved in the noble Brown Under.

Confronting players with their future in this way, does not always work. Depending on

the character involved, a final chance could be seen as either stick or carrot. But if responses will not be known until after Thursday, at least minds will be concentrated.

Of the two under the microscope, it is Hick who arguably has the easier task. For one thing, Sri Lanka's bowling is not as strong as their batting and unless Paul Brind and the Surrey groundstaff are totally immune to outside pressure, the pitch will be hard and bouncy, suiting pace rather than spin. On his home ground Salisbury may find he has to aim at the footholes to get any purchase.

The selectors persistence with Hick, a perennial dilemma for much of the past decade, is perhaps not as flawed as it looks. By no means Australia-bound, he is, however, along with John Crawley, one the

most versatile batsmen around. In short, an ideal reserve providing Graham Thorpe is back to full fitness.

Crawley, who is on standby for Hussain, is a fine player of spin and would perhaps be ahead in the pecking order if Shane Warne's fitness was guaranteed.

As it is, and with Hussain having no more than a 50-50 chance of recovering from his groin strain, he may get a chance to press his claim irrespective of Warne's recovery rate. If he does it will be at six, not three, which will be taken by Hick.

As England's lone slow bowler, Salisbury owes his selection to the paucity of top-flight spinners. "The spin cupboard is thin at present," agreed Graveney, England's chairman of selectors, a situa-

tion that could cost England dear if the Ashes is played in scorching weather.

Explaining the reason behind Salisbury's inclusion, after two poor Tests against South Africa, Graveney said: "As far as wrist spin goes, Ian is really the only one and we felt it prudent to give him one more crack. He knows what is expected and we want to see him bowl as he does in county cricket for Surrey."

As most Sri Lankan batsmen appear to be weaned on spin rather than milk, Salisbury's task, despite the comfort of familiar surroundings, will not be an easy one.

Like a man forced to walk the plank, his options are receding and every time he gets hit for four, it will be like another rapier jab from behind. In such potentially trying cir-

cumstances, one cannot but wish the fellow well. If the occasion has held both Hick and Salisbury back, it is the main reason why Hollis has been picked in the absence of any sustained form for Surrey.

"We felt we needed an all-rounder who was a stronger bowler," said Graveney, "and there were times in the last Test against South Africa when we looked undermanned bowling wise."

"As one of the players targeted to have specialised coaching from Bob Cotton and Graham Gooch, Ben's bowling has come on a lot. He also batted well in Sri Lanka on the A tour last winter and he knows most of their bowlers."

As most players will tell you, timing is everything in sport and unless Hollis has



Ben Hollis: Recalled

makes a complete hash of the opportunity he is probably certain to tour Australia. Not so Flintoff, who following a rough introduction at the hands of South Africa will probably have to settle for an A tour this winter. Unlike Hick and Salisbury, at least he has a safety net.

England's last Test against Sri Lanka, The Oval, starting 27 August: A J Stewart (capt, wkt) 49, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. M R Ramprakash 28, 28; G A Hick 32; A J Stewart 28, 28; D G Gough 27, 28; D R Seneviratne 28, 28; A R C Fraser 33, 43; A D Mully 29, 29.

Trouble mounts for Vogts

FOOTBALL

THOMAS HELMER yesterday became the latest member of Germany's old guard to join the rebellion against coach Berti Vogts and announce he will not play for the national team.

"The coach has his own ideas, I've got mine and as they don't meet, it doesn't make sense to carry on," said the 33-year-old Bayern Munich captain.

Helmer announced he was ending his international career as Vogts was preparing to name his squad for two friendlies against Malta and Romania early next month.

They will be Germany's first games since their quarter-final defeat by Croatia in the World Cup last month. After witnessing a disastrous performance from his ageing team in France, Vogts vowed to rebuild and steer Germany back into the world's elite.

Jürgen Klinsmann, the defenders Jürgen Kohler, Stefan Reuter and Olaf Thon have all ended their international careers, and Vogts has already said he will not pick the veteran libero Lothar Matthäus for the Malta match.

The 36-year-old Andreas Köpcke, who is sharing goal-keeping duties at Marseilles with the newcomer Stéphane Parat, will also be left out of the national team, as Vogts has named Oliver Kahn as his new No 1.

Andreas Möller, the Borussia Dortmund midfielder, and Thomas Hässler both said on Saturday that Vogts had informed them they would not be picked either.

The 30-year-old Möller, who has played 82 times for Germany, said he wanted to continue his international career.

"I have asked Berti Vogts not to count me out," he said.

Hässler, 32 and with 97 caps, was more vague about his plans, saying he would be available for selection in case of an emergency. "I don't want to stay in the way of the reconstruction of the national team," he said.

Vogts has made a bold move by recalling Stefan Effenberg, the controversial Bayern midfielder, who has not played for Germany since being kicked out of the team for making an obscene gesture to fans at the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

Marseilles scored five second-half goals to complete an astonishing 5-1 victory over Montpellier on Saturday and in doing so went to the top of the French league. At half-time, trailing 4-0, the home side were cheered off the pitch but left the Velodrome as heroes after the fairytale turnaround.

Laurent Blanc, the French World Cup defender, scored an injury-time penalty to complete the second-half revival which was sparked by Christophe Dugarry.

He laid on Marseilles' first goal for Florian Maurice then headed two more within nine minutes before Eric Roy's 83rd-minute equaliser.

Montpellier scored four goals, with Ibrahim Bakayoko scoring twice, in a 19-minute nightmare first half spell for Marseilles and their young goalkeeper Parat, who was making his debut in front of 60,000 fans.

Girondins Bordeaux, the only other team on maximum points, beat Auxerre 1-0 at home and lie second on goal difference. Monaco, leaders at the start of the day, were held 0-0 at Toulouse.

Llong's superb catch wasted

GRAEME HICK'S return to the Worcestershire ranks lasted just four balls at Canterbury yesterday, as only 6.5 overs were possible before rain halted play for the day.

Hick failed to score, as his attempted square-cut off Ben Phillips saw Nigel Long produce a superb one-handed catch at backward point as Worcestershire reached 16 for 2 in the seventh over.

Worcestershire won the toss and their captain Tom Moody chose to bat but went cheaply himself, caught behind by Steve Marsh off Dean Headley for one with the score at six. However, after only 28 minutes play, the rain began to fall and the umpires, Vanburn Holder and Jeremy Lloyd, took the players off and the match was officially abandoned at 5.40pm.

It was the third time this season that Kent had been frustrated by the weather. They had Sussex struggling at 50 for 5 at Tunbridge Wells in June when rain stopped play, and had reduced Leicestershire to 25 for 5 at Grace Road the following week, only for rain to intervene again.

Ben Hollis was denied the opportunity to celebrate his England recall with deeds on the pitch as Surrey's AXA League game against Nottinghamshire was abandoned without a ball being bowled at Trent Bridge today. Hollis, named in the 13-man England squad to face Sri Lanka at his home ground on Thursday, was able



Gloucestershire's Robert Dawson is bowled by Essex's Mark Ilett for 13 before rain abruptly ended play at Colchester yesterday. Peter Jay

to make an early departure from Trent Bridge after rain had washed out any hope of play.

The umpires Dickie Bird and Trevor Jesty had little alternative but to call the game off with large pools of water on the outfield. Heavy rain had fall-

en in the two hours up until the scheduled start, leaving Trent Bridge saturated.

Leicestershire kept up the pressure on county championship title chasers Surrey and Lancashire with an eight-wicket win over Middlesex at

Grace Road. The hosts, in third place, responded to their rivals' victories yesterday by recording maximum points thanks to an unbeaten third-wicket stand of 82 between Iain Sutcliffe and Ben Smith. Sutcliffe (40 not out) and Smith (39 not out) came togeth-

er with Leicester struggling at 19 for 2 chasing a victory target of 101. The win moves Leicester to within 39 points of leaders Surrey with a game in hand. Yorkshire's Gavin Hamilton turned in a career-best bowling performance of five for 43 to

steer the Tykes to a 114-run victory over Glamorgan at Cardiff. It was a frustrating final day for Worcestershire at Canterbury, where they were unable to dismiss Kent for their expected victory and were forced to settle for a draw.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

AXA League

Durham v Lancashire

ABANDONED (One Day): Match Abandoned Due To Rain.

Durham won toss. Lancashire (2pts)

Durham won toss. Lancashire (2pts)

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Nottinghamshire v Surrey

ABANDONED (One Day): Match Abandoned Due To Rain.

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Vodafone Challenge Series

Hampshire v Sri Lanka

ABANDONED (One Day): Match Abandoned Due To Rain.

Hampshire (2pts), Sri Lanka (2pts)

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Hampshire (2pts), Sri Lanka (2pts)

Hampshire (2pts), Sri Lanka (2pts)

Britannic Assurance Championship

Glamorgan v Yorkshire

ABANDONED (One Day): Match Abandoned Due To Rain.

Glamorgan (2pts), Yorkshire (2pts)

Glamorgan (2pts), Yorkshire (2pts)

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Glamorgan (2pts), Yorkshire (2pts)

Glamorgan (2pts), Yorkshire (2pts)

SATURDAY SCOREBOARD

Leicestershire v Middlesex

ABANDONED (One Day): Match Abandoned Due To Rain.

Leicestershire (2pts), Middlesex (2pts)

Leicestershire (2pts), Middlesex (2pts)

Leicestershire (2pts), Middlesex (2pts)

Leicestershire (2pts), Middlesex (2pts)

Leicestershire (2pts), Middlesex (2pts)

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Leicestershire (2pts), Middlesex (2pts)

Leicestershire (2pts), Middlesex (2pts)

Icelanders at odds for Todd

By Dave Hadfield

Bradford City 2
Bolton Wanderers 2

IT WAS an Icelandic two-step for Bolton at Bradford, with Arnar Gunnlaugsson twice responsible for giving them the lead only for his compatriot at the back to be implicated in giving it away.

Gunnlaugsson scored one goal and made another in a display that suggested he has found his ideal role in English football, free-ranging behind the front two and causing all manner of trouble.

But Gudni Bergsson was twice at fault for equalisers that deprived Bolton and Gunnlaugsson of what they deserved against a Bradford side that went on the most ambitious spending spree in its history over the summer.

The goalmouth at a sudden Valley Parade was fenced off during the pre-match kick-off. For 19 minutes it looked as though that cordon might just as well have been left in place, but then Gunnlaugsson claimed a delightful second goal of the season to add to his equaliser at Crystal Palace on the opening day.

Neil Cox, one of a number of Premiership signings who missed much of last season's campaign, put the ball into the middle. Dean Holdsworth's dummy inducing a moment's hesitation and Gunnlaugsson nipping between the two central defenders to guide home a shot with his weaker right foot.

Bradford grabbed their first equaliser, through one of their close-season captures, Isaiah Rankin was a prolific scorer in Arsenal's reserves and naturally gets tagged as a poor man's Ian Wright.

He showed the right sort of pace to embarrass the defence but only timed his run well enough to beat the off-side trap when he gave Bergsson a couple of yards start and surged past him to tuck the ball into the net. But Bolton took control when Gunnlaugsson, again free on the left, put over the most inviting of crosses, and it was met by an equally good downward header from Nathan Blake.

Bolton's self-assurance moved up another notch and with some football of Premiership quality but Bradford got their reward and their first points of the season by sticking at their task. Two corners put pressure on

Bolton in the dying minutes, and from the second, fought in by Peter Beagrie, their other expensive new forward Lee Mills got away from Bergsson to head his first goal since his £1m transfer from Port Vale.

"There's a bit of weight on your shoulders when you're a big signing at this club," Mills admitted. "The ball and chain's off my leg now. But Bolton are great on the ball, the way they knock it about."

Sometimes, in the First Division as well as the Premiership, that isn't enough. That was certainly the view of the Bolton manager, Colin Todd, when he emerged from the changing rooms.

"We've had a chat for 10 minutes about defending and the times we concede goals. He said: 'If we're going to make progress in this division we're going to have to play a lot better than we've done today in most departments'."

Bradford City (4-4-2): Walsh, Lawrence, Moore, O'Brien, Dwyer, Beagrie, Bolland (Jacob, 71), Whalley, Grant (Westwood, 65); Mills, Rankin, Substitutes: not used; Edinbo, Substitutes: (3-5-2): Jaskolski, Todd, Bergsson, Platt; Cox, Jensen, Francis, Gunnlaugsson, Phillips; Blake, Holdsworth, Substitutes: not used; Whitlow, Gudjohnson, Gardner. Referee: T. Holborn (Newport Athletic). Bookings: Bolton: O'Brien, Dwyer, Beagrie, Bolland, Rankin, Grant, Westwood, Whitlow, Whitlow, Whitlow. Attendance: 13,163.



Gudni Bergsson (left) is given the brush-off by Bradford's match-saver Lee Mills yesterday

Allsport

No hiding place for Taylor's team

NATIONWIDE ROUND-UP

NORWICH head an unbeaten quartet at the top of the Nationwide League after Craig Bellamy's hat-trick helped Bruce Riech's men to a 4-2 win over Queen's Park Rangers at Carrow Road.

But Sunderland, who were denied a return to the Premiership in June, will slug it out with Watford for the outright leadership of the First Division at the Stadium of Light tomorrow night.

The Hornets kept their winning run going with a 4-1 triumph at Bristol City, the team which followed them up from the Second Division last term, but their manager, Graham Taylor, said: "When we go to Sunderland there will be no hiding. All eyes will be on us and it will be a bigger test than any thing we've had so far."

Norwich, and especially the young Welshman Bellamy, certainly grabbed their opportunities against QPR. Bellamy's treble included two goals in the first six minutes.

Rangers could have done with some of their former player Danny Dichio's finishing. The tall striker, who left them for a spell in Italy, scored twice for the Weasiders in the 5-0 thrashing of Tranmere.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

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Yesterday: Leeds v Blackburn 3-0; Newcastle v Liverpool 1-0; Tottenham v Manchester United 1-0; Arsenal v Everton 1-0; Chelsea v Wimbledon 1-0; Southampton v West Ham 1-0.

Saturday: Charlton v Southampton 0-0; Chelsea v Newcastle 1-1; Derby v Wimbledon 0-0; Leicester v Everton 0-0; Liverpool v Arsenal 0-0; Nottm Forest v Coventry 0-0; Tottenham v Sheffield Wed 0-0; West Ham v Man Utd 0-0.

1998 PREMIERSHIP MATCHES LIVE ON SKY

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Parlour raises tempo amid torpor

BY PHIL SHAW

Liverpool 0
Arsenal 0

WORLD CUP fever scarcely touched the improbable Premiership pacesetter, Charlton, Leicester and Wimbledon, who sent a grand total of four players across the Channel. In contrast, 12 of those actively involved at Anfield spent most of the summer "break" preparing for and performing in the finals, which may explain why this eagerly awaited battle proved to be a phoney war.

Tony Adams, who would have been the 13th member of the France 98 corps on view but for food poisoning, was not the only one with no stom-

ach for the fray. Dennis Bergkamp looked conspicuously off colour after his exertions in orange. Even "The New Kid on the Block", as hundreds of flags hailed Michael Owen, could almost have joined the patrons of that famous enclosure for all the impact he had.

The sight of Bergkamp meandering through a match is nothing new, yet there was no hint that the Arsenal striker might suddenly burst into brilliance as he did against Argentina in Marseille. And while Owen cannot be expected to repeat his devastating assault through the ranks of the South Americans at St Etienne every time Liverpool play, the spark that sets him

apart was only fitfully evident.

The layman would be excused for interpreting their torpor as tiredness, which would be worrying both for their clubs and countries given that they are just nine days into a nine-month slog. But the respective managers - Roy Evans and Gerard Houllier, doing a passable *Two Ronnies* at the post-match press conference, and Arsène Wenger - echoed the opinion of Alex Ferguson and Gianluca Vialli that those returning from the World Cup are behind on fitness rather than burnt out.

Either way, that last season's top four have gleaned only two wins in eight attempts to back up the suggestion that the season started too

early. Wenger, aware that the non-stop industry of Paul Ince and Patrick Vieira might be seen to undermine that argument, differentiated between forwards and the other outfield players who resumed training late after international duty.

Bergkamp was "not as sharp as he used to be", but whereas he was confident that the Footballer of the Year would soon regain his cutting edge, Wenger admitted to being concerned that Vieira and Emmanuel Petit could "run out of strength" in the autumn.

It was no coincidence that the most influential individuals, with the exception of Ince, were players who were overlooked by Glenn Hoddle and

Aimé Jacquet. Despite blazing the best chance into the Kop, Ray Parlour's high-octane surges and service from the right may make the case for Darren Anderton harder to argue when England's squad for Sweden is named on Thursday.

Similarly, the world champions' curious preference for Messieurs Guivarch and Dugarry has allowed Anelka to return in awesome condition. Wenger confirmed that Arsenal still covet an extra striker - "maybe prices will drop now Manchester United are out of the market," he sniped - but his 19-year-old compatriot's maturity makes the quest less compelling.

The other significant contributor to Arsenal's moral victory, intriguingly, was Steve Bould, called up because of Adams's indisposition. He vindicated the decision to name him as captain with a flawless exhibition of centre-back play, capped by a textbook sliding challenge to stop Owen in overdrive. Wenger could be forgiven a touch of hyperbole when he described his back four (average age 34 and a quarter) as "the best in the world".

The combination of experience, ability and hunger which they bring to the Double winners might have been patented at Anfield. This match, however, underlined how much there is for Liverpool's new joint managers still to do.

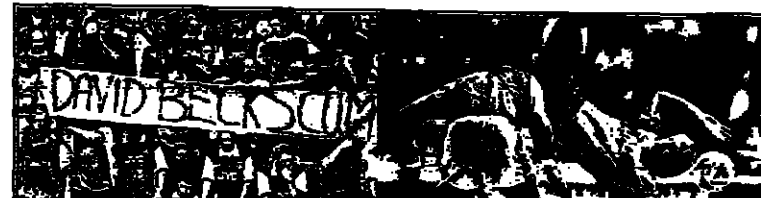
Having made public their desire to sign a dominating central defender, and possibly another goalkeeper, Evans and Houllier must have been perturbed to see the disparity in power and distribution between Arsenal's midfield and their own.

Patrik Berger and Jason McAteer palpably failed to impose themselves on proceedings, and Steve Staunton's delivery lacked its usual accuracy. The requisite balance may come when Ince has an extended run in tandem with Jamie Redknapp, a late substitute on Saturday and another for whom the frustration of missing the global festival could become a blessing.



Ince: Non-stop industry

Liverpool (4-4-2): Friedel, Hoggan, Carragher, Babb, Staunton; McAteer, Ince, Berger (Redknapp, 68), McLennan, Redie, Owen. Substitutes: James, Keane, Harkness, Murphy, James (45). Arsenal (4-2-3): Simon Dunn, Brown, Bould, Winterburn, Parlour, Vieira, Petit, Overmars, Bergkamp, Anelka (Vas, 85). Substitutes: Lee, Grimsdale, Hughes, Boylston, Almon (42). Referee: D. Ellery (Harrow-on-the-Hill). Booked: Arsenal's Parlour, Dunn. Pett. Miss of the match: Ince. Attendance: 44,429.



THAT WAS THE WEEKEND THAT WAS

EDITED BY JON CULLEY

Patience is winning hand for Francis

WILL THIS be the season in which Trevor Francis finally proves he has cracked the art of management?

After a controversial spell in charge at Queen's Park Rangers, where his hard-line approach fell foul of the players, and a stint at Sheffield Wednesday that ended in an unhappy parting, the man who was the Michael Owen of his day may have found his niche at last at St Andrew's.

Francis has transformed Birmingham City in his two years at the club, bringing in 25 players at a cost of some £13m and shipping out 33 worth £6m. Three wins out of three and joint leadership of the First Division tells only part of the story of the settled and consistent man he has assembled in spite of no little

turnout off the field. Saturday's 2-0 victory over Sheffield United completed a sequence of 30 matches in which Birmingham have been beaten only three times.

Francis, whose fiery relationship with City's managing director, Karen Brady, led him to offer his resignation last season, compared the position of his former captain, Steve Bruce, who has just taken charge of the Sheffield team, with his own when he started out at St Andrew's as a means of illustrating how he was right to ask for patience from the Birmingham board.

"Sheffield United are a big club and they are expecting Steve to get promotion to the Premiership straight away," he said. "But that's unrealistic. It was the same for me from day

one at Birmingham and that was totally unrealistic."

"But we have got the structure right, which is important, and promotion is starting to become a possibility."

Having signed the Crewe striker Dele Adebola from under the noses of several interested Premiership clubs this summer, Francis believes he will have the most potent strike force in the First Division once Paul Furlong returns to full fitness.

Club sponsors Auto Windscreens will present a £25,000 BMW to the first Birmingham player to reach 28 goals for the season and Adebola has taken the opportunity to steal a march on his rival. Saturday's 56th-minute goal at Bramall Lane was the £1m 23-year-old's fifth in as many games.

PREMIERSHIP TEAM OF THE WEEK

KENNY CUNNINGHAM
Wimbledon

CLIVE MENDONÇA
Charlton Athletic

PAUL INCE
Liverpool

PAOLO DI CANIO
Sheffield Wednesday

IGOR STIMAC
Derby County

STEVE BOULD
Arsenal

THEO ZAGAROUS
Leicester City

STUART PEARCE
Newcastle

ANDY HINCHCLIFFE
Sheffield Wednesday

Manager of the week: Dave Bassett - defied fans protesting at the sale of top players by inspiring his makeshift team to a morale-boosting win.

Performance of the week: Charlton Athletic - whatever the rest of the season has in store, the Valley will not forget its first taste of the Premiership.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today: Neither Leeds nor Blackburn has scored a Premiership goal so far. They meet before Sky TV cameras at Elland Road.

Tomorrow: Rangers, leading 2-0 from the first leg, travel to Greece hoping to secure their passage through the UEFA Cup qualifying stage against PAOK Salonika. Kilmarnock have a 2-0 deficit to overturn at home to Sigma Olomouc. Watford face a stiff test at Sunderland in the Nationwide League.

Wednesday: Manchester United, aiming to qualify for the Champions League, take a 2-0 lead to LNS Leds, of Poland, while Celtic travel to Croatia Zagreb leading by a solitary first-leg goal.

Thursday: Hearts take on FC Lantana in the Cup-Winners' Cup with a 1-0 away leg lead. Friday: A star-studded night in Monaco is in prospect as Chelsea meet Real Madrid for the European Super Cup. At home, Watford against Wolves is the televised First Division offering.

Saturday: The Premiership programme sends club Tottenham to Everton and gives promoted Charlton Athletic a chance to measure themselves against the best when they meet Arsenal at Highbury.

Wilson advised to start spending

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY manager Danny Wilson is bracing himself for a test of his management skills that has little to do with match tactics or with his strategy for keeping the South Yorkshire club in the Premiership.

Two weeks into the new season, the former Barnsley chief already faces an uncomfortable baptism as the man responsible for controlling the volatile Paolo Di Canio. Wilson rapped Di Canio's knuckles when the former Juventus and Milan forward suggested he should have bought more players if they wanted to avoid a season of struggle, insisting that managing the club be left to him.

But before giving another exhibition of his technical wizardry in Saturday's humiliation of Tottenham, Di Canio, whose outspoken manner contributed to his fall from grace at Celtic, insisted that he would not be gagged - and offered curi-

ously plausible grounds for being allowed to say his piece.

"I want to help the manager," he said. "In three months' time, if we have lost five or six games in a row his job will be on the line. I won't lose my job because I have a three-year contract."

Meanwhile, it will not help Wilson rest more easily to learn that, unlike virtually every manager who has been asked, Di Canio supports his former Celtic team-mate and fellow rebel, Pierre van Hooijdonk, in his one-man "strike" against Nottingham Forest.

"Pierre is my friend and a great guy," Di Canio said. "He had problems at Celtic because he was passionate about the club and I'm sure it is the same case at Forest. It is because he is ambitious and I understand that." Sounds like Wednesday better get the cheque-book out again - and quickly.

KEY NUMBERS

12
the number of years Dave Watson has been an Everton player, having signed for them on 22 August, 1986

39
the number of seconds it took for Darlington's Glenn Naylor to score Saturday's fastest English League goal

263
the number of playing minutes since Everton last scored a Premiership goal

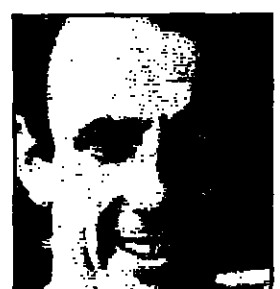
500
the number of points won by Manchester United since the Premier League was launched

600,000
the cost in pounds of each of striker Andreas Andersson's five goals in 32 games for Newcastle

I TOLD YOU SO

It is vital to us that we use this first home game to win, that is the most important thing. Christian Gross, the Tottenham manager running out of time at White Hart Lane.

Missing... making it... and mistaken



GARY MCALLISTER
COVENTRY CITY

THE 33-YEAR-OLD Scottish captain saw his World Cup dreams turn to dust in November last year when knee ligament damage brought his season to an end, although he did attempt a comeback only a month later. Now well on the road to recovery, McAllister is back in training with Gordon Strachan's squad and hopes to put himself in line for a return towards the end of next month.



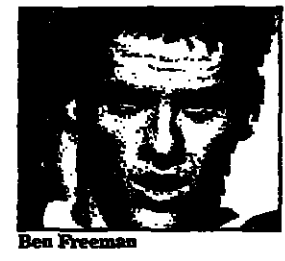
LEE HUGHES
WEST BROMWICH

A LATE recruit to the professional game, Lee was already 21 when he joined West Bromwich for £250,000 from non-League Kidderminster a year ago. Making up for lost time, he grabbed eight goals in his first Nationwide League season despite only latterly making the starting line-up and already has six this season following Saturday's hat-trick against Port Vale.



MICHAEL OWEN

THERE'S NO limit to Michael Owen's earning potential, apparently. Advertising deals, boot contracts, £20,000-a-week salary... now soap fans reckon they've seen Boy Wonder moving in on the acting business as Emmerdale's Scott Windsor (actor) Ben Freeman.



BEN FREEMAN

RUMOURS Fact and fiction from the Sunday papers

DESPITE Roy Hodgson's insistence that Kevin Gallacher has reacted "professionally" to his exclusion from the Blackburn team, both the *People* and the *Mirror* say the Scottish striker is a £2.5m target for Newcastle, whom the *People* says deny receiving an £18m offer from Manchester United for Alan Shearer last week.

The *Mail on Sunday*, meanwhile, mischievously suggests that Dalglish may not be around to spend Newcastle's money much longer, reporting whispers on Tyneside that Raul Gullit is to be approached about taking over.

The *News of the World* says Leicester have turned down a £5m offer for Emile Heskey from Aston Villa and are also trying to fight off the attentions of Roma, while the *People* reckons Villa's top target is the Italian striker Christian Vieri, for whom Atletico Madrid would want £10m. The *Mail*, however, says manager John

Gregory wants to spend his Dwight Yorke windfall on a renewed attempt to land Vieri's team-mate, Juninho.

Departures as well as arrivals could be in the offing for Villa, however, with the *People* reporting a Liverpool interest in Mark Bosnich, whose contract has only a year to run.

The *Mail* says Nottingham Forest, without a proven Premiership striker, would like to buy Teddy Sheringham from Manchester United, although the *People* reckons manager Dave Bassett is lining up a £3m move for Blackburn's combative midfielder Billy McKinlay.

Mail Le Tissier, once valued at £10m, can leave Southampton for £2.5m, according to the *Mirror*, who say that Portsmouth are interested but cannot afford the fee. Arsenal, says the *News of the World*, have made a cheeky enquiry about Tottenham's Sol Campbell.

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Dilemma of the Equity card or yellow card

IN THEIR response to the thespian activity that besmirched this summer's World Cup finals, referees are hot guaranteed the support of Premiership coaches and managers.

A contentious issue it ruffled Kenny Dalglish's feathers at Standard Bridge, on Saturday, when Alan Shearer was shown a yellow card by Uriah Rennie for suggesting that he had enough on his plate without having to put up with illegal treatment.

Shearer himself expressed some confusion about this - "You can't always be sure about what's going on," he said - but Dalglish was more forthright. "They [the referees] are on dangerous ground," he said after Newcastle's hard-fought 1-1 draw against Chelsea.

Dalglish makes the point that there is a fine line between players attempting to con referees and the frequent need to take evasive action. "Unless we get this right it could lead to a big problem," he added.

If more inclined to support players in these matters, and risking a charge of pompous appraisal, little fault could be found personally with Rennie's performance.

For quite a while Shearer has exploited respect for his status in the game to persuade officials that he is more innocent against than sinning, employing manoeuvres to win free-kicks when he is himself fouling.

Indeed one of the advantages England felt they would have in the World Cup was Shearer's cleverness in this department.

In a hard game there is not a great deal wrong with this but Shearer cannot complain when scrutiny goes against him and officials refuse to be bullied.

Not that England's captain was the only one to come under Rennie's close attention. Pierluigi Casiraghi was shown the yellow card for taking an unnecessary tumble, Gianfranco Zola for diving in the penalty area and Franck Leboeuf for time-wasting. Not a bad afternoon's work by one of the Premiership's better referees.

An even better afternoon for Stuart Pearce, who was not only the oldest player out there but one of the few who is not spoken of in multiples of seven figures.

At a rough calculation the players on view cost £80m in total but only Zola came close to matching



KEN JONES
ON MONDAY

Pearce's contribution. Centre-back is not a role with which Pearce is greatly familiar but it was no problem for an outstanding professional. There was a heroic quality to

much of Pearce's work, typified by the desperate and almost successful attempt he made to prevent Celestine Babayaro giving Chelsea the lead in the 23rd minute after Zola had cleverly set up Gustavo Poyet.

Zola's craft and industry provided Chelsea with their best opportunities, but, as Gianluca Vialli admitted afterwards, they are still short of being technically and tactically efficient.

The frenzy of English football makes it difficult to establish changes in tempo. "We have to learn the importance of taking the foot off the accelerator," Vialli said, "to play at different rhythms."

Tell that to supporters who demand an urgent game while failing to appreciate the effect of constant urgency on cohesion.

Deployed in front of Chelsea's back four when making his home debut for them on Saturday, the World Cup's best defender Marcel Desailly, of France, saw more of the ball in the air than throughout the finals.

Praised by Dalglish for the effort they put in, Newcastle's favoured play was the early long pass to either Shearer or Andreas Andersson. If not the most appealing method it did bring an equaliser two minutes before half-time when Shearer headed on for Andersson to make the most of a slip by Michael Duberry to squeeze the ball past Ed De Goey.

After that Newcastle needed all Pearce's stout resistance and organisational skills as well as Shay Given's shot-stopping.

The introduction of Norberto

Solano for Andersson did however give Newcastle a sharper edge and more was seen of Shearer. Kept in check for most of the game he suddenly made space for himself to hit the far post with a shot that rebounded into De Goey's grateful embrace.

Dalglish was asked whether he feels optimistic. "I was optimistic last season," he smiled.

Goals: Babayaro (23) 1-0; Andersson (43) 1-1.
Chelsea (4-4-2): De Goey, Poyet, Duberry, Leboeuf, Le Saux (Poyet 58). Port (10, 73). Desailly, D. Maffeo Babayaro, Zola, Casiraghi. Substitutes not used: Lambourde, Newton, Hitchcock (84).
Newcastle United (4-4-2): Given, Watson, Charvet, Pearce, Paolone (Albert 67), Lee, Hamann, Duberry, Speed, Andersson (Solano 67), Shearer. Substitutes not used: Henry, Keshbeba, Perez (68).
Bookings: Casiraghi (Leboeuf, Casiraghi, Duberry, Zola, Newcastle), Port (Shearer).
Referee: U Rennie (Sheffield).
Man of the match: Pearce.
Attendance: 34,795.



The Middlesbrough defender Gianluca Festa uses strong-arm tactics to keep Julian Joachim at bay during Villa's 3-1 home victory yesterday

Allsport

Joachim invigorates Villa

Aston Villa
Middlesbrough

ASTON VILLA proved there is life after Dwight Yorke yesterday as Julian Joachim, Gary Charles and Alan Thompson combined to demonstrate that John Gregory's side remain richly endowed with goalscorers. Bryan Robson's side, however, were anonymous for the first hour prior to a double substitution which came close to changing the complexion of this Premiership match.

In the opening 60 minutes, Villa dominated and but for a missed penalty by Thompson, they could have secured three points by that stage, sparing them a few anxious moments which followed.

Villa had taken a sixth-minute lead as they began outting behind them the Yorke

years, following the £12.5m departure of the Trinidadian striker to Manchester United late on Thursday. Coincidentally, the match sponsors were Yorke, having clinched a deal for the game six months ago.

The obvious and ideal replacement would have been a fit Stan Collymore, but an ankle injury in training on Friday ruled him out having only just recovered from a thigh strain.

It forced Gregory to pair Riccardo Scimeca up front with Joachim and the 5ft 6in forward kick-started Villa's win with a stunning finish. Alan Wright's forward ball from the left was taken delightfully first time by Lee Hendrie, flicking superbly over the head of Dean Gordon.

For Gordon it was the start of an afternoon he will want to forget in a hurry as the pass found Joachim who drove a

rivetting left-footer from 10 yards beyond Mark Schwarzer and inside the left-hand post.

Within two minutes Villa had chances to increase their lead as Hendrie struck a 25-yard effort wide of the right-hand post, while Gareth Southgate's close-range shot cannoned off Alan Moore into the side-netting.

Despite Villa's link-up play and movement between defence and midfield which left the visitors exasperated at times, the final through ball was lacking.

With chances at a premium it took a surprising run from Ugo Ehiogu - back in defence after a one-match ban - in the 28th minute to bring the game back to life, culminating in a 15-yard drive which Schwarzer saved low to his right.

Then came Thompson's fluffed spot-kick after Joachim had been hauled down by

Gianluca Festa. The kick was weak and at a comfortable height for Schwarzer to push away.

Yet Villa eventually doubled their lead in the 52nd minute with a beautifully crafted goal, culminating in a sublime finish from Charles. Hendrie was again involved in the build-up, this time with a raking pass which was flicked on into the path of Charles by Ian Taylor.

Gordon was again made to look foolish as Charles cut inside on to his left foot and curled a 15-yard shot round Schwarzer's right hand and inside the post.

In an effort to rouse his side, Robson brought on Mikkel Beck and Hamilton Ricard for Moore and the ineffectual Paul Gascoigne with the switch reaping immediate dividends in the 62nd minute. A through ball was flicked wide by the out-

side of Ricard's right boot for Merson to whip in a cross, allowing Beck to flick home at the near post.

Victory, however, was sealed in the 78th minute when poor Gordon bundled over Joachim just outside the area, allowing Thompson to make amends for his earlier blunder with a 20-yard free-kick which beat Schwarzer via a deflection off the wall.

Afterwards Joachim said: "Our performance was good and we got off to a great start. The first win was important. Let's hope we can continue."

Joachim believes he could now get a great opportunity to impress and said: "I have the chance to show what I can hopefully I can take the strikers' spot."

Thompson said of the penalty miss: "I should have walked

up and blasted it, but I made up for it later on. I think the manager [Gregory] has massive ambitions. We have a young squad with some great kids coming through so the future looks good."

John Gregory was delighted with the 3-1 defeat after a week which had seen the departures of Yorke to United and David Unsworth to Everton. He said: "We were hoping we would be able to put in a good display and get a win - that was the most important thing."

Aston Villa: Bonnici, Charles, Wright, Southgate, Ehiogu, Taylor, Thompson, Joachim (Mason 81), Barry Hendrie (Ricard 58), Scimeca (Gordon 58). Substitutes not used: Ferreira, Oakes. Middlesbrough: Schwarzer, Fleming, Gordon, Festa, Huxford, Gascoigne (Beck 58), Merson, Moore (Ricard 58), Stamp, Townsend, Harrison. Substitutes not used: Maddison, Kinsler, Berrford, Bookash, Villa: Wright, Middlesbrough: Festa. Referee: P. Alcock (Halswood). Man of the match: Joachim. Attendance: 29,559.

Heskey is key to the future

BY BOB HOUSTON

Leicester City
Everton

THE BODY language said it all. Martin O'Neill bubbled over with enthusiasm in his post-mortem eulogy - "in the first half we were fantastic" - while Walter Smith had the demeanour of a man on whom it has dawned that the chalice might, after all, be poisoned.

The irony is that it could have been the Leicester manager staring into that chalice had he been seduced by Goodison Park's blandishments in the closed season. Whether it was simply the money that kept O'Neill at Filbert Street, he does give off the aura of a man with a mission, armed with the knowledge that on the field he has most of the equipment to fulfil it.

Had the bean-counters who are siding into an increasingly important influence in the Premiership been required to cast an objective eye over the assets on the Filbert Street stage Everton would have come out a poor second best. Who do they have to compare with the youth and power of Emile Heskey, who gambolled in the freedom afforded him by three central defenders who allowed him time and space to turn and torment them?

Heskey and Mustafa Izzet could have had the undertakers called to the scene after only five minutes, but Everton survived both strikes by a matter of inches.

When Tony Cottee reminded us that he is still a class act with a clinical finish for the first goal in the 11th minute, Iroby stalked the pitch again. The Londoner has spent several frustrating and fruitless years at Goodison Park before arriving at Leicester for what has all the signs of being an Indian summer.

The only window of oppor-

tunity afforded the visitors fell to Nick Barnby when Matt Elliott missed a simple headed clearance in the 28th minute. It was not taken and 12 minutes later Heskey ran at a fragile and parrying defence before releasing Steve Guppy whose cross was tapped in by Izzet.

"Our football was as good as we have played in the Premiership," the Leicester manager enthused and he should know. However, the second half was one of those dreary events that make one think football should have its equivalent of boxing's technical knockout. Everton brought on Danny Cadamarteri after the break and failed to utilise his speed although David Unsworth, replacing Marco Materazzi, did add some backbone to their defence.

Smith can take some satisfaction that in Michael Ball he has a most promising wing-back and that OliverDACout has already shown enough signs that he could be one foreign import Everton will not regret. Unsworth returning to his natural stamping ground will also be useful. What else? That's Smith's problem.

Heskey is already the apple of several bigger clubs' eyes but O'Neill knows that if that mission is to be fulfilled, the Leicester of the world must hang on to such players. Contract negotiations are on all parties' minds at the moment, but as the Leicester manager joked: "I'll have to get John Holmes [Heskey's agent] into the right frame of mind over a glass of wine." Better make it Grand

Cru, Martin.
Goals: Cottee (11) 1-0, Izzet (38) 2-0.
Leicester City (3-5-2): Keller, Savage, Guppy, Sinclair, Elliott, Walsh, Izzet, Lennon, Zayachuk, Cottee, Heskey. Substitutes not used: Arphenod, Parker, Kaanan, Campbell, Leggett.
Everton (3-5-2): Myhre, Cleland, Short, Titer, Marcano (Unsworth 46), Collins, Dacourt, Spencer (Cadamarteri 45). Substitutes not used: Gerrard, Beards.
Bookings: Leicester: Zayachuk, Sinclair, Savage, Lennon, Unsworth, Marcano, Ferguson, Dacourt, Titer, Collins.
Referee: Stephen Lodge.
Man of the match: Heskey.
Attendance: 21,037.

Foolish Forest fail to fool their fans

BY JON CULLEY

Nottingham Forest
Coventry City

HARD to please, these Nottingham folk. Forest paraded their £2.5m new signing (in his brief, admittedly) and won the match for good measure yet still all to witness a post-match demonstration by disgruntled supporters.

"I'd like someone to tell me that they are demonstrating about," the club's manager, Steve Basset, said afterwards, even though he knew full well

The club's selling of Kevin Campbell, one half of the First Division's deadliest attack last season, plus shadow striker Ian Moore and the club captain, Colin Cooper, has left not only Pierre van Hooijdonk but much of the Nottingham public wondering whether Forest are serious about staying in the Premiership.

Forest cannot be held responsible for Van Hooijdonk's petulant refusal to rejoin the squad, although having signed a player with a track record of such behaviour they should have known they were taking a

risk and that they would need to match his ambitions to keep him sweet.

But they can be accused of being foolish in allowing two other forwards to leave while Van Hooijdonk's future was unresolved and pretty daft too in according to Cooper's request to join Middlesbrough within two days of losing another centre-back, Jan-Olav Eide, to injury.

Basset may have unearthed a gem in the pacy Jean-Glaude Darcheville, on loan for the season from Rennes, but Dougie Freedman, signed from Wolves, has some improving to

do to be recognised as Premiership material and it will take more than Nigel Quashie, the QPR midfielder signed just too late to play on Saturday, to transform a team of essentially only First Division quality.

Just as well, for Forest and Basset's sake, that they do not lack determination, which was the main reason, allied to the brilliance of goalkeeper Dave Beasant, why they were able to beat a Coventry side that had turned over Chelsea last week.

Unlike Marcel Desailly and company, Forest's defenders did their job with such concen-

tration that Darren Huckerby and Dion Dublin were rendered comparatively ineffective. Going forward, Steve Stone and Thierry Bonalair attacked Coventry's weaker left flank with speed and gusto.

Even so, but for Beasant Coventry could have left with one point if not all three. At 39, the former Wimbledon goalkeeper, once better known for his gaffes than for great saves, seems to have been reborn. His judgement is superb, his agility that of a much younger man; the saves he pulled off to keep out headers by Noel Whelan

and Gary Breen were of the highest class.

Gordon Strachan, not a man to take defeat lightly, could find nothing to criticise, even when Stone blasted Forest in front. "I felt it was always going to be their day," he said.

Goals: Stone (52) 1-0.
Nottingham Forest (4-4-2): Beasant, Bonalair, Christie, Armstrong, Rogers, Stone, Gemmill, Dublin, Substitutes not used: Ogilvie (60), A Hall, Williams.
Referee: W Borge (Thames Valley).
Bookings: Forest: Rogers, Armstrong, Harewood, Coventry: Beasant.
Man of the match: Beasant.
Attendance: 29,546.

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SPORT

PLAYING WITH RICHARDSON THE LEGEND P14 • VILLA TOO GOOD FOR BORO P23

European Athletics Championships: Party time keeps on going for Britain in the javelin and 4x400 metres relay

Backley spears golden record

By MIKE ROWBOTTOM
in Budapest

"GOING BIG early is the key," Steve Backley had said before these European championships. "That puts the pressure on the others." The Briton followed his plan here to the letter yesterday, winning his third consecutive title with an effort of 89.72 metres - pressure which none of his rivals could handle.

The man who came closest was Backley's friend and training partner Mick Hill - a sweet occurrence given that Backley displaced him from a medal position in taking a silver at last year's World Championships. Hill produced a fifth round effort of 86.92m, 2cm below his personal best, to take the silver, with Raymond Hecht, of Germany, third with 86.63.

Backley's winning distance beat his own championship record of 87.45m set in Friday's qualifying - on his first throw, naturally.

Aki Parvianen, the 22-year-old Finn who had beaten Backley three times out of five this season and leads this year's world rankings with a throw of 90.88, failed to make the cut after the first three rounds.

It was a glorious double for the British throwers, who had prepared for these championships with the injured world champion, Jan Zelezny, who was watching from the stands.

Britain's women earned their second medal of the championships with a bronze in the 4x400m relay after an inspired third leg from Katharine Merry launched Allison Curbishley on to the final leg with a five metres advantage on the

Irish. Merry, one of the team's best athletes, was "clobbered" by Christie, ran the individual 200 metres in these championships, but her split time of 50.4sec yesterday must have indicated to her the ultimate wisdom of moving up in distance.

Curbishley lengthened the gap to 15 metres by the finish to take third place in 3min 25.66sec after Germany's individual champion Grit Breuer had passed Olga Kotlyarova, of Russia, in the final 20 metres to win in 3:23.03.

For Sonia O'Sullivan, winning one event at a championship no longer seems to be enough. Yesterday she completed the only individual double of these championships, pulverising the 5,000 metres field by bursting into a leggy gallop around the final bend, just as she had in Wednesday's 10,000 metres

final. Result: two golds to match the pair she won over both distances at the world cross-country championships in March.

The field contained another fearsomely fast kicker in the form of Romania's Gabriela Czaibo, who has been sharpening up by running 1500m races on the grand prix circuit. There were even suggestions from some quarters that O'Sullivan had decided to do her first 10,000m here as an insurance in case she could not handle the Romanian's speed.

But that theory was demolished in the space of three seconds - the amount of time Czaibo managed to hang onto the Irish woman when she set off for home in a race which only started properly when the Romanian broke from the procession 50 metres before the bell.

O'Sullivan, who was running with a black ribbon on her vest to mark yesterday's memorial service for those killed in the Omagh bombing, finished in 15min 06.50sec.

Asked why she had run so well at championships, and so erratically on this season's grand prix circuit, she replied: "I've realised that it's all about coming to championships, winning, and carrying that flag round."

Czaibo was distraught after a race in which she had played into O'Sullivan's hands by taking the lead early on at a relatively slow pace. The Irish woman was less than sympathetic. "She put herself there," she said. "If she didn't want to lead she shouldn't have done."

O'Sullivan's team colleague James McElroy, who was snatched up to run for Ireland while British and Northern Ire-

land officials argued over a race, missed out on a medal by one place in the 800 metres, which produced one of the upsets of the championships as the world record holder Wilson Kipketer, of Denmark, jogged home a despondent last.

Kipketer, who has raced only three times since returning from a bout of malaria which put him in hospital for 11 days earlier this year, was jostled on the final bend by Nils Schumann, of Germany, who won in 1min 44.88sec.

Damian Kallabis, of Germany, produced a stirring victory in the 3,000m steeplechase, almost stumbling on the final water jump but recovering himself to vault clean over the last barrier, which finally broke the challenge of Italy's Alessandro Lamberti, who won the title four years ago.



Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan shows her delight as she wins the 5,000 metres and her second gold medal of the European Championships yesterday

Allsport

Manuela Machado extended Portugal's hegemony in the European women's marathon on Sunday with an untroubled win in a championship record of 2hr 27 min 10 sec. As the sun began to shine

and the temperatures rose, Machado increased the tempo, drawing away from Biktigirova at 34km and steadily extending her lead over the cobbled streets of the Hungarian capital. She entered the

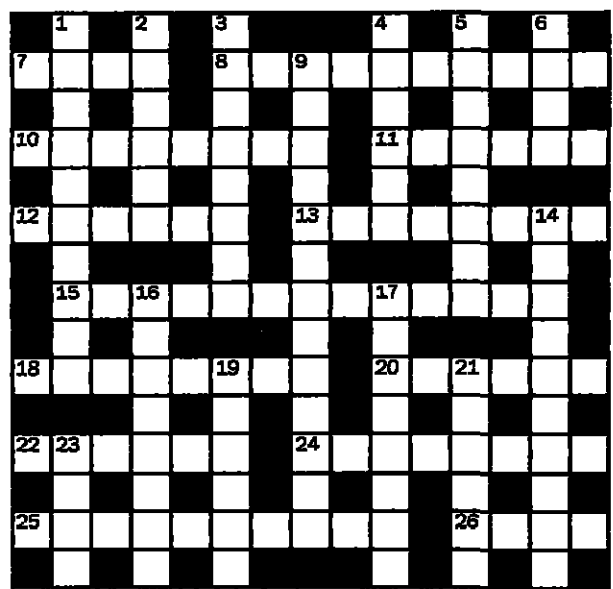
Nepstadion to applause from the scattering of spectators, 300 metres ahead of Biktigirova who took the silver medal in 2:28:01. Italian Maura Viceconti was third in 2:28:31. As expected, Britain's men

won the 4 x 400 metres relay when they held off a strong Polish challenge to win in 2min 58.68sec. It was the fourth consecutive European championship victory by a British quartet. Report, results, page 18

THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3697, Monday 24 August

By Porcia



ACROSS

- 7 Suffer financial collapse and run out of money (4)
- 8 Go straight to thespian and greet politely (3,4,3)
- 10 Appear capable of becoming equal (4,2,2)
- 11 Destroy ballad, it's vulgar (3,3)
- 12 Goddess depicted in this heathen altar (6)
- 13 A member of one force involved in actual plot (8)

DOWN

- 1 One in a flat spin at finding French poet (2,3)
- 2 Person who's big in the dairy industry? (6)
- 3 Black strike (6)
- 4 Jewellery article Kelvin's occupied with (6)
- 5 Ancient language a modern Arab's spoken (8)
- 6 Study notes before producing Portuguese music (4)
- 9 Rapid growth's damaged Northern oil port I fear (13)
- 14 French male's known to be strange (10)
- 16 Discussions on the way to make TV programme (4,4)
- 17 Figure's popular within Germany it's thought (8)
- 19 Since getting in Prime Minister's becoming unctuous (6)
- 21 Top note held by shrill tenor (6)
- 23 Superstar turned up to see English banker (4)

- 25 Refusal to go along with foolish behaviour is sensible (2-6)
- 25 Try this place, we're told (4)

No Uefa link-up to super league

FOOTBALL

UEFA, THE European game's governing body, last night insisted that it had no plans to work with the organisation behind a proposed super league. Claims by the Milan-based Media Partners that Uefa had agreed to review the company's plans for the league were "absolutely not true", the Uefa official, Guido Tognoni, said. "General secretary Gerhard Aigner made it clear to Media Partners that Uefa has its own plans and does not need their advice on running a European league," he added. Uefa officials met Media Partners on Friday in Geneva and following the meeting the company issued a statement saying: "Uefa have agreed to review the European Football League plans in consultation with national associations." Tognoni said there was no such agreement. "We agreed to meet them as a courtesy," he said. "We listened to their presentation but told them we will go our way. We have our own project which we will reveal in our own time. We certainly don't have any further meetings scheduled."

Liverpool, one of the teams linked with a new super league,

believe they are close to ending Steve McManaman's lengthy new contract negotiations after Michael Owen signed a new deal on Saturday. Owen has signed a renegotiated five-year deal that doubled his wages and put him on about £20,000 a week.

McManaman said talks were at an advanced stage and "hopefully something should be sorted out very soon". One of the club's joint managers, Gerard Houllier, said McManaman could be next to agree from a batch of young players in talks with the Merseysiders over new deals. He said: "Maybe the first signing for the club could be Steve McManaman, and of course we hope to keep Macca and Robbie Fowler."

Fowler's imminent return to full fitness is likely to inspire further talks on his new agreement, too. With Jamie Redknapp - back in action for the first time in five months in Saturday's 0-0 draw against Arsenal - having signed a long-term deal at the end of last season, the only blot on what one of the club's joint managers, Roy Evans, calls "ongoing negotiations" is the former England full-back Rob Jones. Last week he rejected a two-year extension to his deal, which runs out next summer.



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MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Post-Diana trauma in Kensington Gardens, September 1997. Death often marks the spots where cultures affirm themselves

Andrew Buerman

The soul searchers

Who can doubt that something happened to the spiritual life of the country after the death of Diana? Many at the time looked forward to a religious revival. But the truth of what was felt then, and what it means a year later is more complex. By Paul Valley

They always leave the Cellophane on. And that is something revealing in itself. All across the country these days we see inadequate little bunches of flowers fastened to lampposts and fences by the side of dangerous roads. They tell stories of a grief that cuts too deep for words. But they also attempt to draw us, for a fleeting moment, to share the sorrow. They attempt to personalise a public space, and to make it holy. But it is a pain that is too raw to expose completely before strangers. They leave on the Cellophane.

The practice of leaving flowers by the roadside has been growing slowly for more than a decade but it has accelerated rapidly since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, just a year ago. The anthropologists call it "folk behaviour". It is characteristically spontaneous, uncritical and personal. It is extremely eclectic. It picks up elements from popular culture, superstition, sentiment, the paranormal, and it appropriates religious beliefs and practices and secularises them. Or does it?

There were many in the churches who said at the time of Diana's death that the phenomenal public response represented the stirring of a dormant religious feeling among people who have lost the old religious vocabulary, but whose instincts remained. Some still feel that. Only a couple of months ago the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, told a conference:

"As I walked among the crowds on the night before her funeral, I found that people were asking profound questions about the meaning of life and death. The flowers and candles spoke, too, of shock and grief mixed with a sense that death is not the end and that there is something beyond this life... Of course, flowers, messages and the spontaneous outpouring of grief do not by themselves indicate an implicit spirituality. But

it was noticeable how many makeshift shrines appeared. And as well as the flowers piling up outside Buckingham Palace and St James's Palace, they were taken in vast quantities to our cathedrals and parish churches.

"Hundreds of churches had special services for Diana; thousands of people came to light candles in her memory. York Minster sold 15,000 candles that week."

There were those who smelled opportunity. "It was a defining moment," says Paul Handley, the editor of *Church Times*. "It revealed to the established church that the British public, if not religiously, were keen to express themselves religiously - and that did cause a certain amount of excitement among the mission-minded." Indeed, a group of the Church's key thinkers are to gather for a private seminar on the subject at St George's Windsor next month.

Certainly the public response to the Princess's death was heavy with meaning. The mourning was not personal; it was collective. The milling crowds with their flowers allowed individuals to become part of something greater than themselves; they became a sort of congregation, gathered in solemn purpose. In long waits to sign the books of remembrance, that most British of institutions - the queue - was sacralised.

The need to subsume individual identity in a common expression during a time of social fragmentation may be a phenomenon for our time. Whether it speaks of true spirituality is another matter. Most people who rushed to interpret seemed to get it wrong. In the view of Jonathan Dollimore, the author of *Death, Desire and Loss in Western Culture*, who is a professor at Sussex University's Humanities Research Centre, "There was a mass hysteria, but there was genuine emotion swept along with it," he says. He was struck by the intimacy of many of the messages accompanying the flowers laid in his

local town. "It was people distilling the accumulated wisdom of their years and offering it to her as they might to their own child. I respect it, but don't trust it."

Death often marks the spot where cultures affirm themselves. There are interesting parallels elsewhere. It was after the Hillsborough disaster in 1989 that the phenomenon became apparent on a large scale: a million people laid flowers and football memorabilia in memory of the fans who were crushed to death in the Sheffield football stadium. Similar responses occurred in Norway on the death of King Olaf V in 1991; in Sweden after the Estonia ferry disaster in 1994; and during the White March in Belgium in 1996, protesting against apparent official indifference to the murder of children by paedophiles.

"All these provoked similar phenomena," says Douglas Davies, professor of theology at Durham University, who has made a special study of the rituals surrounding death. "They all involve extremely large numbers of people acting in an unexpected and unheeded fashion in reaction to a death which touches the depth of human sentiment and social morality."

Davies is dismissive of those church commentators who have tried to interpret the Diana happenings in terms of some old and deep-seated religiosity connected with Marian worship or even pagan activities.

"The view that ritual is like a kind of language, full of meaning and open to decoding, can mislead. The significance of these acts lies within the act itself. It is the doing of it and not any extensive exegesis which counts."

None the less, he believes that they are rooted in a religious impulse. The acts and flowers he describes as "words against death" that human response to death, which asserts that it does not overcome and destroy those relationships and hopes which lie at the heart of

human identity. The eventual composting of the flowers was in itself a powerful eucharistic symbol - of life out of death.

But isn't such religion in the eye of the committed beholder? Yes and No, says John Bowker, the author of *The Meanings of Death*. He refers me to the entry on "Biogenetic Structuralism and Religion" in his recent *Oxford Dictionary of World Religions*. What it says, essentially, is that the human brain is hard-wired to be religious. The gene-protein process in the formation of the human body prepares human beings for characteristic behaviours. It prepares us for linguistic, sexual, religious, musical and other competences, without dictating what we do with each competence. The human brain looks for something to be religious about.

So why did these impulses attach to Diana? "What other vehicles are there in modern life for these deep chemical emotions?" asks Bowker sardonically. In Nineties Britain the polarities of the religious experience - good and evil, adulation and exorcism - extend no further than Owen and Beckham and the metaphor that is World Cup football.

Professor Davies is more helpful. Diana was loaded with symbolic meaning. She was what Davies calls "an imaginary friend" - a figure who helps generate a sense of self and place in the world for ordinary folk. Her narrative was theirs - love, marriage, children, caring, disrupted relationships and divorce. Her daily realities were theirs - clothes, make-up, hairdos, diet, exercise, slimming, even the vulnerability of eating disorders and the insecurity of low self-esteem. Yet she lived also in the fantasy world of pop singers, film stars royalty and other celebrities. Diana bridged the gap between the quotidian world and the world of romance.

Continued on page 10

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INSIDE	Letters	2	Obituaries	6-7	Arts/On Air	12-14	Radio	23	NETWORK
	Leaders	3	Private Lives	8-9	Network	15-18	Games	23	
	Comment	4-5	Features	10-11	Listings	21-22	Today's TV	24	

INCLUDING APPOINTMENTS

US missile attacks

Sir: Conor Cruise O'Brien says that "there is nothing in the [UN] Charter to prevent any power from acting unilaterally, or in concert with others, if it considers its vital interests are at stake" ("At least the Cold War kept the terrorists at bay", 22 August).

The Charter states that "the Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression, and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with Articles 41 and 42," which detail the preferred "measures not involving the use of armed force" and permit the Security Council to take further action if it finds such measures inadequate.

The only exception is Article 51, which permits the "right of individual or collective self-defence" against "armed attack... until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security". Under international law, such self-defence is authorised only when its necessity is instant, overwhelming, leaving no moment for deliberation.

Citing these facts in the wake of the June 1998 missile strikes on Iraq (which killed eight civilians) Alfred Rubin, a specialist on international law, observed that "the law of self-defence has nothing to do with retaliation or reprisals".

Were Cuba to strafe Miami with Libyan support in defence of its "vital interests" I think Mr O'Brien's response would be different.

GABRIEL CARLYLE
Magdalen College
Oxford

Sir: International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War regrets the resort to force by the United States in response to Islamic terrorism. We abhor all terrorist acts everywhere. We sympathise with American anger at the attacks on its African embassies, with the massive loss of life of innocent bystanders. We accept that the US action is legally within the terms of the United Nations Charter, but Article 51 allows action in self-defence only until the Security Council has had time to act.

The US response to this action will only fuel the cycle of violence. Tit-for-tat bombings will continue, as the US clearly fears in closing some of its embassies. As security tightens, more innocent deaths will occur and there will be more attacks on UN and NGO aid workers. The Middle East peace process, already at a standstill, will go backwards.

If the US is to be a force for justice and peace, it needs to recognise the impact that violence has on the minds of the Middle Eastern people and on the global peace process. We urge the use of the rule of law at this critical juncture. Difficult though it may be, further US response should be through due processes of the UN system. The Security Council should agree any future military action by the US.

A month ago in Rome the US refused to sign up to the new International Criminal Court (ICC), which is intended to deal with just such atrocities as those in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. It must think again. If the ICC is to work, all the civilised democracies must participate: the most powerful of all cannot opt out and act as its own judge, jury and executioner. That way lies total world disorder.

Dr DOUGLAS HOLDSTOCK
Dr ELISABETH WATERSTON
Medical Action for Global Security
London, N19

Sir: Robert Fisk suggests that we in the US consider the reasons for terrorism, and, when we do, we will discover that those who attack us and our embassies merely want a more even-handed American policy in the Middle East ("As my

grocer said, Thank you, Mr Clinton, for the kind words", 22 August).

This is utter nonsense. Mr Fisk certainly knows that terrorists (or whatever he wants to call them) want nothing less than the elimination of Israel and the eradication of western cultural influence in the Islamic world.

And the difference between "Israelis who massacre 29 Palestinians" (in fact, there was one such Israeli) and terrorists who murder athletes and diplomats and tourists and office workers is that the former is reviled by his society, while the latter are lionised by theirs.

GREGG STEVENS
Boston,
Massachusetts
USA

Sir: Thank you for the refreshing article "Bin Laden will take his revenge" (21 August) by Robert Fisk. Fisk should be commended for daring to be objective in an increasingly pro-American media.

The US must be made to realise that it will become increasingly isolated as European governments begin to think carefully before rubber-stamping "Wild West" style military operations. The US government's actions against Sudan and Afghanistan are tantamount to a declaration of war. It would seem that the US is trying to imitate Israel's "iron fist" policy of striking back hard. However, as events in South Lebanon show, such action, rather than being effective as a deterrent, simply exacerbates the situation.

CHRISTIAN J van NIEUWERBURG
Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire

Sir: Mr Clinton says he is not against Muslims and Arabs. He led to his nation, his cabinet and to his nearest and dearest. Why should we believe him? He conspires with the Serbs and the Israelis in killing Muslims and Arabs; he is killing Iraqi children through sanctions; four Arab and Muslim countries are under

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



In the first of a new series on the rickshaws of Dhaka in Bangladesh, some of the city's 350,000 motorised and cycle rickshaws - more than half of its total number of vehicles - crowd the streets. In all, they make an estimated 7 million passenger trips a day
Kalpesh Lathigra

sanctions. The double standards of most Western people run like this: two whites killed is a disaster, a hundred non-whites killed is a collateral damage.

HUSSAIN RUSTAM
New Malden, Surrey

Selected by wealth

Sir: You show ("Selective schools feeling the heat", 21 August) that 23 grammar schools do better than any comprehensive in their A-level scores. You say that is because grammar schools have high entry standards.

Did you mean high living standards? In January 1998 comprehensives had six times the proportion of their students on income support as had state-funded grammar schools (Ofsted PANDA Annex tables for Secondary Schools).

Translate that income advantage for grammar pupils into heated bedrooms suitable for study, with computers, up-to-date books and journals; transport to theatres, museums and libraries; private tuition when needed; parents driving to evening school meetings; not to mention trips

abroad, a healthy diet and someone at home demonstrating that a steady job, whatever the drawbacks, is preferable to mere survival.

Are grammar schools more than exclusion zones for the poor? Perhaps we readers of expensive dailies like a bit of exclusivity, but not when the remaining grammar schools feed on creaming off the intake of neighbouring schools.

JACK FIELD
London, N7

Sir: Flawed knowledge about A-level modular examinations is a poor basis on which to attack them. But nevertheless, Sir Rhodes Boyson has done just that ("Some A-levels should be more equal than others", 21 August).

A-level modular courses do not operate on the basis of four weeks' learning followed by an exam, as he suggests. Generally, there are two to six modules in an A-level, with synoptic papers to ensure that the full syllabus has been covered and understood. The two-module model, for example, uses exactly the same exam papers as the traditional A-level - except that modular rules apply and the students would be able to sit their

papers again - much as they do in university exams and professional exams for accountancy and law.

G R G TURNBULL
The Associated Examining Board
Guildford, Surrey

Wrong target

Sir: The Bank of England in July came within a hair's breadth of hitting its inflation target (report, 19 August). Clearly, the agony suffered by the Bank as well as the rest of us, in pursuit of that target has not been in vain.

Yet, while I am second to none in stressing the importance of maintaining price stability and avoiding the periodic overheating that drives the boom-bust cycle, which the Chancellor who laid down the target is seeking to abolish, would it really be a huge disaster if the target in question was not hit as accurately and consistently as it is intended to be?

After all, there is no special logic in the target figure (or, as we must now call it, "number") selected, or in the "underlying" (excluding mortgage interest payments, but not likewise administered indirect taxes) rather than "headline" (telling it as it is) inflation

measure. A different figure could also be justified. And since targeting inflation is not unlike a rolling ship shooting at a moving target in fog, an altogether different target (say, money supply) might be more suitable.

WALTER GRAY
London, N3

This is no bug

Sir: The "Millennium Bug" (Review, 20 August) is not a bug, it is a bomb.

A bug is something that performs erratically, unpredictably or incorrectly, so called because, in computer lore, a program fault in 1944 with the Harvard Mark I was traced to two valve contacts where a moth had got stuck. A short circuit was caused, literally, by a bug.

A bomb is the result of a machine being designed, programmed or built, deliberately or unwittingly, to do something that turns out to be undesirable for the user. The most common bombs are parting gifts from unhappy employees. The year 2000 problem is a bomb. Affected systems were built with 2-digit registers for the year (96, 97, 98, 99, 00) so that when the date gets to 00, the internal clocks more or less reset by 100 years. They are performing, alas, as designed.

It does not lurk deep inside every computer system. The Apple Macintosh has a four-digit year register, and has had since its birth in 1974. If it amuses you, you can set the clock on your Mac to 2010 and whistle a merry tune while you work. Remember to set the clock back before you write any invoices, though. Although your clients would love the 12-year credit, their accounts system would probably crash as soon as the date went in, since they are probably on PCs.

The Millennium Bomb is a feature of older mainframes, cheap embedded chips (such as in cars, VCRs, washing machines, aircraft etc) and some Windows/Intel PCs.

DAVID WHELAN
London, SE11

first and foremost; their religion was, at most, a minor point.

JOHN HALL
Telford, Shropshire

Sir: "If you honk too much you get the honk." Few present-day cyclists would, I suspect, recognise this charming phrase, which was everyday parlance among "roadmen" more recently than the inter-war years to which An Harris refers (Letter, 18 August). To honk meant to stand on the pedals, thus inducing the state of over-exertion or "bonk" which your correspondent describes and which could also manifest itself as sudden mania, or "hunger-knock".

MATTHEW THOMAS
Bristol

IN BRIEF

Conference as "these awful scum". Articles putting forward a humanist viewpoint have a rightful place in print. However, if *The Independent* is going to carry articles advocating such sweeping racialist and offensive prejudiced views on a regular basis then my readership will go elsewhere.

Professor BRIAN BROWN
Sheffield

Sir: Paul Perrin takes you to task for not reporting on the religion of those killed and injured in the Omagh bombing (Letter, 21 August). I thought that this was an admirable approach; they were people

Sir: Now that "phwoah" is officially part of the English language (Terence Blacker, 21 August), can anyone say why it is not spelt with an "f" (or even "ff") if it is to be uttered fortissimo? Instead of "ph", which suggests a derivation from ancient Greek? Paris may well have said this when first he cast eyes on Helen, but it ain't in Homer.

MICHAEL J J DAY
Settle, North Yorkshire

Sir: Philip Hensher (Comment, 21 August) starts by stating that it is apparent that "nobody at all believes in a God". How does he know what I believe? He goes on to attack the "derr-brained bishops from Africa" and those who attended the Lambeth

Treat us like adults

Sir: With regard to the ongoing debate as to whether the censorship of pornography should be relaxed in Britain (reports, 13 August), no one seems to have considered the fact that in most of Europe pornography way beyond anything that British censors would ever consider legalising is freely available.

I have lived in Italy and now in Greece, both countries in which pornographic material is openly on display in news kiosks frequented by everyone from babies in their parents' arms to pensioners, and even quite small country towns have cinemas showing nothing but porn.

I have seen nothing to suggest that Italians or Greeks are in any way more sexually depraved than the British, nor that a young woman by herself waiting for a night bus in Thessaloniki is at any more risk than her counterpart in, say, Manchester. People in Greece who do not like pornography simply do not buy pornographic magazines or frequent cinemas showing pornographic films, an option that one assumes would be available to the most puritanical of British citizens should the British lawmakers ever decide to start treating us like grownups capable of making our own decisions.

MAX SUMMERS
Athens

Ravaged Russia

Sir: Professor Norman Stone ("Can Russia survive...?", 18 August) appears to delight in running down Turkey's neighbours since he went to work in Turkey.

Yes, the poor Russians, so unfortunate that they have followed the nostrums of shallow Reaganites like Professor Stone and landed in this awful mess.

A society is a human ecosystem, and even if it was inefficient and its prospects of further progress were limited, the socialist society in the Soviet Union had developed an intricate network of connections which worked quite well, and might have gradually been altered.

Instead, the West sold them a pup - tear out all your roots and start again. If you plough up the soil of an established forest, then for many years the plants that will thrive will be the weeds. And we see this in Russia - the Mafia and the profiteers and the religious superstitions take root first, because it takes a long time for weedkillers like law and order to be developed, and for a new set of balanced societal connections to grow.

G A ROUSSOPOULOS
Hindhead,
Surrey

Gorgeous word

Sir: Terence Blacker ("And now for a gorgeously inappropriate Aga saga", 21 August) puts his finger on some of the modish expressions which make us squirm. But does the adjective "gorgeous" really belong in this category?

If Mr Blacker could find no interesting examples of the use of the word, is it perhaps that he didn't look hard enough?

The example which leaps to mind occurs in a moving passage in *King Lear*: "If only to go warm were gorgeous, / Why, nature needs not what thou gorgeous wear'st."

The other seven examples of the word in Shakespeare include Prospero's "cloud-capped towers (and) gorgeous palaces", the description of Prince Hal and his companions-in-arms as "gorgeous as the sun at midsummer"; and the reference by Hal himself, after his accession as Henry V, to his "new and gorgeous garment, majesty".

Surely not an adjective to be sneered at?

CHARLES BARBER
Leeds,
West Yorkshire

A-levels are for snobs. Try our dimbo-friendly alternative

HEAD FACILITATORS! Has your school been forced down the A-level league table yet again this year? Were your results once more distorted by the elitist and discriminatory examining practices of the so-called educational system? After students have been crammed for exams, laboratory scans have shown that their brains are as bloated and discoloured as the livers of forced geese. We don't impose our Western attitudes on Africa any more, so why do we treat our own children like that?

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ENGLISH LITERATURE

Answer all questions.
● When you made a comparative study of the three videos of *Macbeth*, how much shorter do you think a qualified film editor could have made them?
● It is now generally accepted that *Beowulf* is the sexist creation of an inadequate fantasist. In how many ways do you see attitudes like his affecting women in television (with special reference to Australian soap opera) today? (This paper carries a partial credit for maths.)

PHYSICS
Answer one question only.
Either: What expression is given for the main energy of monatomic ideal gas molecules of mass m at

a thermodynamic temperature T ? Or: The mechanics of atomic fission have been covered in detail in your coursework. This knowledge is sufficient to construct a small explosive nuclear device. You wouldn't do anything like that, would you?

ITALIAN
Answer one question only.
Either: Leggete l'articolo e decidete se queste frasi sono vere o false:
a) A St. Moritz è vietato l'accesso alle macchine
b) Una camera singola all'ostello "Stille" costa 13 franchini.
c) Il prezzo indicato per l'ostello "Stille" comprende tutti i pasti.
Or: Pizze with too much of that round, stinky meat really sucks. Discuss.


SIMON CARR
A modern, relevant system to incentivise full participation in a multi-ability society

ART
Answer all questions.
● "Much of Mannerism is a con-

scious artistic revolt against the qualities that are summarised in Raphael." Does this statement:
a) suck?
b) rock?
● Titoretto sought to combine Titian's colour with Michelangelo's drawing. In what ways do Bob and Vic share the same relationship with Rik and Viv?
● Devise a Nintendo game based on *The Death of Chatterton*.

MATHS
(Optional)
What is the longest number in the world:
a) the value of pi?
b) the number describing all the atoms in the universe?
c) whatever.

GENERAL CULTURE
Answer one question only, if you feel it's necessary.
● Elizabeth Bennet, Cleopatra and Catwoman: develop a cage dancing routine to express their special qualities.
● How many ways have those bastards killed Kenny?
● Some people get quite tearful during "Touched by an Angel". Why is that?
● Getting snogged up: how soon is too soon?
● Is history bunk? If so, what about that geography?

PHILOSOPHY
Either: Is it a funny old world? Or: It's a funny sort of day isn't it? Neither one thing nor the other. Discuss for 40 minutes.

Or: You never know, do you? Or do you?

THE FOODCHUTE PAPER
(This paper is sponsored by Foodchute, the friendly supermarket, where every little costs less.)
● If Coke is specialised with 25 per cent off a four-pack crowd-pleaser, how many should loyalty-card holders buy?
● If you eat a whole 48-unit multipack of bacon bits every day for a year, what coping strategies (kafans, for instance) would you recommend?
● Are shoplifters misunderstood victims of a wider culture of theft? Or are they vermin?
● Would you like a job as a cashier?

Miles Kington is on holiday

JP 11/10/150

Sudan

Striptease, verse and fleas

AMERICAN SCIENTISTS claim they've found the bit of the human brain that decides whether or not a thing is worth remembering. Though lots of brain areas hum into action when looking at a view or a photograph, it's only the right pre-frontal lobe that decides whether or not to log it in the memory banks. That at least accounts for President Clinton's selective memory for what he gives young women. It's because of his right pre-frontal that he's still being asked about the dress, the brooch, the hatpin and the volume of Walt Whitman's poetry that he allegedly gave Monica Lewinsky. It's not prevarication or mendacity that he's guilty of here, just that darned wayward lobe.

But of all the gifts Clinton "could have given" the lovely Monica, the most significant is that volume of poems. There's an eerie conjunction between the shaggy-bearded seer of American letters and the clean-cut lothario of the Oval Office that has not been properly explored until now. The President's admiration for Whitman goes beyond a literary appreciation of his immensely long, meandering rhapsodies of Americana. Clinton also gave his wife a volume of Whitman as a wedding present. It's possible he dishes out Walt's collected works to any females he feels attracted to, as a warning of what they may expect to encounter at his hands.

Whitman's most famous poem is "Song Of Myself", an epic burst of crowing narcissism. It doesn't take much hindsight to see how Clinton might identify with it. At one point Whitman actually asks, "Have you outstripped the rest? Are you the President?" And we can imagine Bill striding the swirly carpet of the White House, book in hand, nodding vigorously before going on to the section containing the words, "Divine am I inside and out, and I make holy whatever I touch or am touched from." Got that, girls? There's nothing grubby or degrading about anything you may be asked to do, since the Presidential droit de seigneur enables it.

Those who've read Christopher Hitchens' revelations about what Clinton and Monica got up to in private - the "unconsummated oral sex" she performed on his clothed and vertical frame, followed by Ms Lewinsky's stepping back, removing her kit and doing a little dance to encourage her inamorata to pleasure himself - may marvel at the one-sided nature of the business. And now that she's told the grand jury how he fondled her both upstairs and down (as I'm afraid we used to say in our teens), you may wonder why he didn't go the whole hog.

The answer, it seems, is also in Whitman's poem. "I merely stir, press, feel with my fingers, and am happy," he writes. "To touch my person to someone else's is about as much as I can stand."

It all becomes startlingly apposite, as Whitman/Clinton describes someone performing nameless in-



JOHN WALSH
'Song of Myself' doubles as an instruction manual in the erotic proclivities of the First Philanderer

dignities on him: "On all sides prurient provokers stiffening my limbs / straining the udder of my heart for its withheld drip / behaving licentious toward me, taking no denial... Unbuttoning my clothes, holding me by the bare waist..." Blimey! There's even a moment when, pre-climactically, he cries, "Enough! Enough! Stand back!", as Mr Clinton undoubtedly directed his raven-haired intern.

If ever there was a poem that doubled as an instruction manual in the erotic proclivities of the First Philanderer, it's this one. How poignant that it even prefigures his own remorseful confession - that ever after he was so comprehensively shafted by Linda Tripp, Kenneth Starr and Ms Lewinsky herself, he had to admit it was his own fault. How do those other lines of Whitman go?

I am given up by traitors,
I talk wildly, I have lost my wits,
I and nobody else am the greatest traitor

YESTERDAY I read that impotence, cancer, death and the menopause are all vying for the accolade of "the final taboo". But if a taboo is a subject that ordinary middle-class people would rather you didn't talk about, I have news for you: the last taboo is the flea.

I am sick of having small crawling things in my lovely home. For weeks I have wrestled with the children's nits, have endured their agonised yells as I try to extract the nasty creatures from their pristine locks with a savagely fine-toothed nitcomb. I have watched for signs of headlice, crablice and their less attractive relatives making their way across bathroom towel and kitchen tile. I've had it explained interminably (and have explained it myself in turn) that nits like clean hair to breed in, as well as nectarine complexions to walk across and beautiful faces to live over, but it doesn't make me feel much better. The only good nit, I'm afraid, is the one expiring in the bath, feebly wagging its parasitical tendrils and muttering, "Mother of mercy, is this the end of Rico?"

Anyway, like a war veteran, I bade a final farewell to the nit world and



Bill gave Monica a copy of Walt Whitman's 'Leaves of Grass' before he sowed his wild oats

took off on holiday. I wasn't back two hours when I became aware of something prickling my leg as I watched *Last of the Mohicans*. Nothing nasty, just a tiny scabbling in the hairs on my calf. I scratched it away. Two more little twitches and nibblings followed on my other leg. Was I empathising with Hawkeye and Chingachcook in the jungle wilderness? I rubbed the back of my knee, abstractedly.

It was minutes before I pulled up a denim hem to reveal a dozen of the little blighters apparently throwing a party all over my shin. I flicked one off, and two more hopped on. I tried to smack them with a rolled-up copy of *Homes and Gardens* too flea infestation supplement this month. I

noticed) and the little blighters jumped over the descending missile, like Zen acrobats.

The house was seething with them. We bedded anyone sitting on the upstairs loo, where the flea army would jump imperiously onto their bare knees.

The spare bedroom was like Omaha Beach, with the invaders' bodies carpeting the bed, or carpet. If you put a flea-ridden garment in the washing machine, you opened the door 45 minutes later, and a Superflea would emerge, cleansed, full of beans, shouting "Yesss!" and bunched its fists... I trashed the late-nite chemist looking for NITFlea Spray. I spread Rug Patrol flea powder all over the living room until

it resembled the den of a hopelessly untidy cocaine baron.

I consulted ancient works of household management, which recommended pestling fleabane and dousing the children with DDT. I called the local council, but they won't touch fleas any more (it's considered "a domestic"). And, like a fool, I asked the advice of neighbours and friends. Disaster. In vain do you point out that this has happened just because the family dog has been away on vacation and the fleas have gone mad in her absence, and that one's home is fundamentally as charming and wholesome as ever. Nobody listened.

The neighbours gave me suspicious looks, as if I'd confessed, or

had sneakily shoved a few fleas through their letterboxes. Friends all did that horrible rictus-y smile and backed away surreptitiously as if I'd trained the little buggers to leap onto their shoulders with grappling hooks.

So here I sit, friendless, dogless, child-deserted (everyone's moved down the country to Granny's flealess haven), with an enormous can of Flea-Off in hand, wondering if I've seen off the last of them. A slow blues is playing in my head. It's that old Eric Clapton number that starts "Once I lived the life of a millionaire..." And how does the chorus go? "Oooh, sure is strange, like a disease / Nobody knows you, when you've got the fleas."

RIGHT OF REPLY

TOM SAWYER



The General Secretary of the Labour Party responds to Ken Livingstone's charges of bias

KEN LIVINGSTONE'S golden year was 1981. He became GLC leader, and a split Labour Party was in near-terminal decline. Once again, in *The Independent*, he seems to be trying to recreate the ferment.

Winning back power wasn't easy for Labour. In the Eighties, those who advocated reform or modernisation were routinely denounced as traitors. The factional politics of procedural manipulation - at which Ken has long excelled - took the place of winning over the hearts and minds of ordinary working people.

I played a part in creating that culture. The experience of Labour in government in the Seventies was often a bitter one for trade unionists representing low-paid workers. But the price we paid for continuing these battles in opposition was higher still.

Most of us realised that the destruction had to stop a long time ago. We knew that the programme of the first Labour government for 18 years would have to be rooted in the lives of ordinary people, not just in the resolutions of committees.

The Government would have to listen to the party, and the party would have to listen to the Government. That's what the partnership in power changes in this year's party conference and NEC are all about. There never was a Golden Age when party and government moved perfectly in step: Sydney Webb's 1918 Labour Party constitution explicitly recognises that no party conference could hope to write the election manifesto, never mind run a government. Our changes are honest about this, and I want the NEC to make the process work.

A trip to the edge of catastrophe

IT IS not an easy task to put the novelist Christopher Priest in his place. He began his career in the Sixties in the literary ghetto of science fiction, but published his first novels with the conspicuously non-ghetto house of Faber & Faber. In the Seventies, he left Faber and he left science fiction, too. In the Eighties, he published multi-faceted novels constructed like houses of mirrors and, in the Nineties, he continues to do so. His previous novel, *The Prestige*, won the World Fantasy Award in 1995 for its adroit manipulation of problems of identity through the twinned lives of feuding magicians from the era of Gaslight Romance. (One gains an edge on the other by engaging the services of Nicola Tesla, the man who invented AC current.)

Through these plays can be described the puzzles of perception and



MONDAY BOOK

THE EXTREMES
BY CHRISTOPHER PRIEST, SIMON & SCHUSTER, £16.99

identity familiar to most readers of ambitious literary fiction at the end of this century. *The Prestige*, a compulsive, haunting and clever novel, also deservedly won the mainstream James Tait Black Memorial Prize. And if its author always seemed to have a card or two up his sleeve, this may have been a result of his great competence in the use of genre-fiction methods to illuminate the non-genre novel. After all, it is all too easy for writers to sound incompetent to describe - or else to be frustrated into incoherence by - the

savage speed at which the human condition is altering today.

Even more visibly than with *The Prestige*, that same competence pervades Priest's new novel, *The Extremes*. This time, it is focused on the mechanics and implications, both personal and corporate, of Virtual Reality. And once again we reach the end of a Priest novel caught up in a pre-digitalisation. With all the well earned facility of a genre novel whose author is steeped in the literary techniques of science fiction and fantasy, *The Extremes* slingshots at the end into a quicksand terrain, where its protagonists flow into one another like viruses. Here, the face in the mirror is anyone's; no one's, mine.

The story is told with an appearance of flatness, but it is the flatness of a monitor about to register a catastrophe. Teresa Simons is an FBI agent on compassionate leave, following the death of her agent husband in a spree shooting in Texas. At the same time, there has been a similar shooting in the Kentish town of Bulverton, very close to Hastings. Teresa, who was born in England and removed to America as a small child, goes there under an impulse. She is not sure why, only that the two spasms have somehow mirrored one another.

Slowly, she begins to gain some understanding of the terrible banality of what has happened to Bulverton - an understanding that Priest conveys through deadpan recountings of events, that make, at some points, almost intolerably painful reading. She also grasps the terrible ten-



Virtual reality, from the outsider's point of view

uousness of any meaningful links between one spasm and the other in the "real" world. At the same time, it begins to appear that her own FBI training through ExEx, or Extreme Experiences - Virtual Reality immersions into historical scenes of carnage, which are constructed through computer readings of participants' memories - has subtly unfixed her from any basic faith in the reality of what has happened.

Mildly harassed by a team of executives from GumHo, a private firm that plugs customers into ExEx versions of real-life atrocities, Teresa slowly paints herself into a virtual reality corner. Her obsessive investigations into the Bulverton spree killer have both nauseated her and implicated her in his psyche. She finds herself riding the ExEx version of this

terrible little person, and "editing" the experience for herself. And then, she falls through.

She falls through into a mirror dance of realities and identities. She begins to edit her own past life in order to free herself from the killer's life, which has begun to grow hyperlinks into her own. Caught in the dance, she moves, as the novel closes, into what may be a dream, or Utopia, or a real world that has become rewritable.

In the end, *The Extremes* is perhaps a nightmare, perhaps not. Most extraordinarily, for most of its length it is both. Teresa is both a meat-puppet victim of the new world, and one of those who writes our futures for us. Swift, haunting, cruel and kind, *The Extremes* is a guidance manual for the maze we face.

JOHN CLUTE

"I'VE CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT GIVING TO CHARITY"



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Clive Anderson
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The Earl of Jersey

FOR THE ninth Earl of Jersey, Osterley Park was never truly home. However, this did not extinguish his interest in and fondness for the family house which he inherited as a boy – an interest which continued throughout his life.

His foreword to the present guide book, entitled "Memories of Osterley", dwells lightly on the part he himself played in Osterley's history. He was only 13 when his father died, but on coming of age he seems rapidly to have assessed his inheritance and planned a way forward.

This was most swiftly realised in 1935, when he commissioned Sir Edwin Lutyens to build a new house at Middleton Park, Oxfordshire, a family property where he had pulled down the existing house which Christopher Hussey had described as "without architectural merit besides being difficult to run and maintain".

Osterley presented a different problem. While on the one hand finding it like a museum because as a child he was never allowed to touch anything, Lord Jersey also knew it as the place much beloved of his grandmother. It was she, the wife of the seventh Earl, who in 1884 took the house back in hand after the death of its tenant. Initially she and her husband had planned to give one garden party before retiring, but instead they were "fascinated with the place", and for the Countess it became "the joy of my life".

Osterley Park was built in the 16th century by Sir Thomas Gresham, founder of the Royal Exchange. Refashioned and largely furnished in the 1760s and 1770s by Robert Adam for the bankers Francis and Robert Child, it became what Horace Walpole described as "the palace of palaces". The Principal Floor with its State Rooms and Long Gallery was and is the chief glory. It was Robert Child's granddaughter Sarah

Sophia who in 1804 married the first Earl of Jersey.

George Francis Child Villiers was born in 1910 and succeeded his father as Earl in 1923. He was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford. In 1932 he went to work at Glyn Mills, which had absorbed Child's, the family bank, in the 1920s.

Lord Jersey received a steady stream of requests to see inside the house at Osterley, and responded by opening it to the public in 1939. Asked why he had chosen this course, he told the *Times* that he felt it was "sufficient answer that he did not live in it and that many others wished to see it". His letter to the newspaper a month after opening conveys great

pleasure that so many people – 12,000 in that month alone – had visited and enjoyed themselves. This concern for the visitor was something that never left him. He often had ideas for how a visit could be made more interesting and pleasurable, and he wanted to know what we at the National Trust were doing to make this so. His own solution in 1939 had been to organise in some of the top-floor rooms a series of changing exhibitions of work by living artists and sculptors, something which he felt provided an interesting and stimulating contrast to the 18th-century rooms below.

Asked why he had opened Osterley to the public, he replied that he felt it was "sufficient answer that he did not live in it and that many others wished to see it"

By this time Lord Jersey had moved to the island of Jersey – he and his third wife, Bianca Mottroni, whom he had married in 1946, had been much taken with it on a visit in 1949, and he became the first Earl of Jersey to live there. It was in Jersey too that many of the things he had taken with him from Osterley, including a large proportion of the pictures, such as Van Dyck's

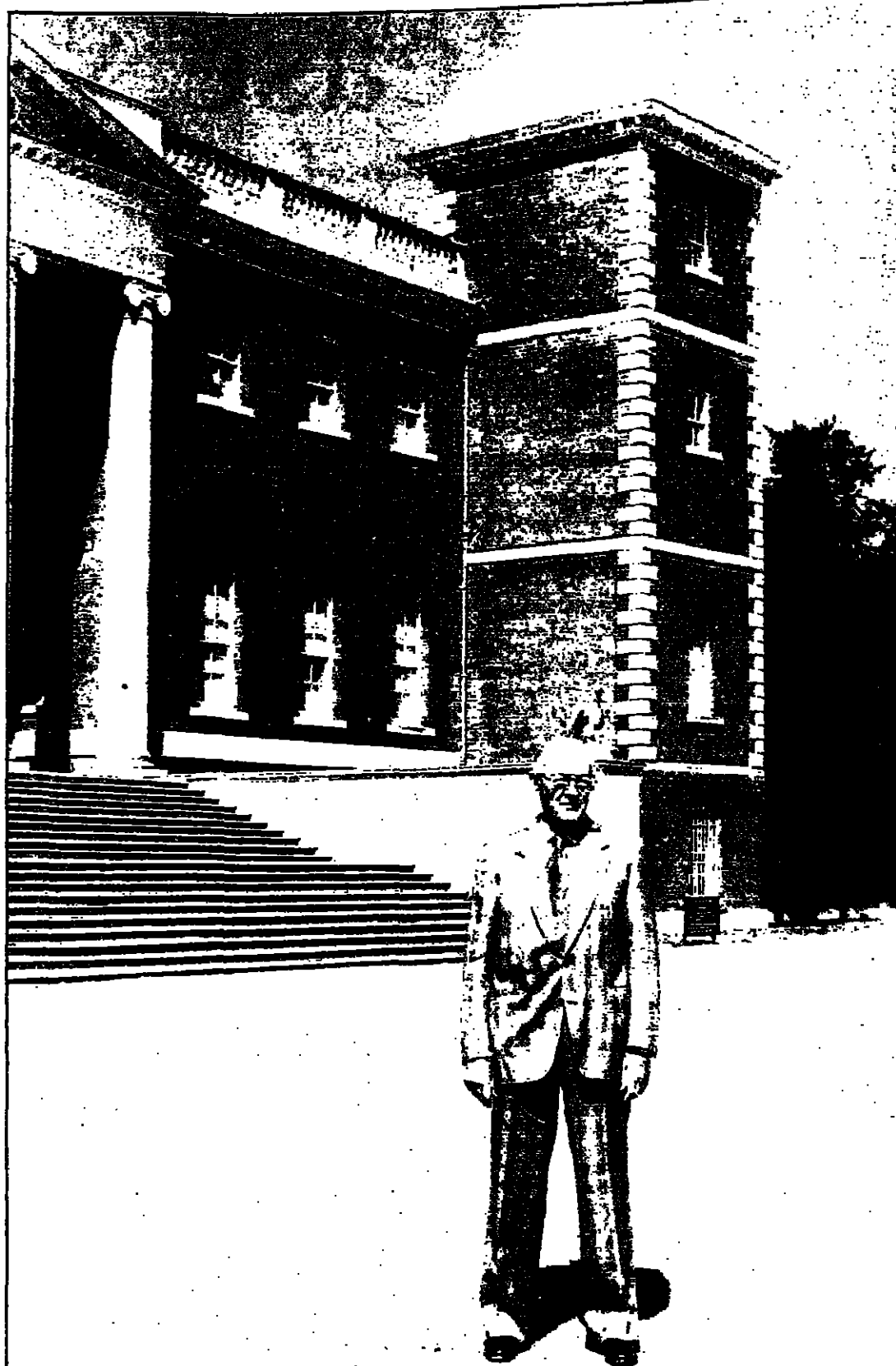
portrait of Charles I on horseback, were tragically destroyed in a fire at the depot where they were stored.

However, even from a distance Lord Jersey was always in touch with what was going on at Osterley. Through the years when it was maintained by the Ministry of Works and managed by the V & A he particularly helped the curators in their researches on the house's history. Through these the museum undertook its ground-breaking work to show the rooms as they would have been in the late 18th century – formal and uncluttered. He and his family also enthusiastically participated in parties there, echoing the truly magnificent ball which the Georgian Group held at Osterley in 1939 under his auspices.

In 1991 the National Trust took back the various strands of management. Lord Jersey responded with pleasure to the fact that Osterley was once more run by "one hand". Over the last seven years he made magnificent gifts back to Osterley of silver, porcelain, furniture and miniatures. Images of his family, who first acquired Osterley in 1713, can once more be seen there. Portraits of Lord Jersey and his wife by Howard Morgan, commissioned by the trust in 1994, hang upstairs. His interest, support and encouragement were a crucial factor in all that has been recently achieved at Osterley.

ANTHEA PALMER

George Francis Child Villiers, landowner: born 15 February 1910; succeeded 1923 as ninth Earl of Jersey; married 1932 Patricia Richards (one daughter; marriage dissolved 1937); 1937 Virginia Leach (née Cherrill; marriage dissolved 1946); 1947 Bianca Mottroni (one daughter and two sons deceased); died St Helier, Jersey 9 August 1998.



Lord Jersey in 1991 outside Osterley Park, the house he gave to the National Trust in 1949

Nona Coxhead



NONA COXHEAD was a complex and many-faceted woman: model, dancer, novelist and writer on metaphysical science. She was born in Australia, educated in England and as an adult lived in both the United States and London. From the late 1960s she lectured at the London Association of Science of Mind, and later led the group for more than 20 years. No wonder she described her life as peripatetic and kaleidoscopic.

She was born Nona Reed in Melbourne, Australia, in 1914 to an Australian-American father and an Australian-Scottish mother. When she was still a young child her father deserted the family, and her mother brought her to England to be educated. Her mother's second husband was Herbert Mundin, the British comedian who worked in Hollywood and appeared in over 100 films in the 1930s including *The Desert Song*, *The Adventures of Robin Hood* and *Noël Coward's Cavalcade*. Nona described him as excruciatingly funny. Her mother, Kathleen, founded the Children's Cancer Fund of America and organised the fundraising "Fan Ball" for more than 25 years.

Meanwhile, Nona was left in various boarding schools – 11 in all – in Britain, America and Australia. During the summer holidays she was often looked after by school caretakers. Lonely and rejected, she

became an avid reader and observer of life. At one school, aged 12, she listed reading as her favourite hobby and claimed special time for it. This was granted on condition that she wrote a report on each book she read. That term she reported on 93 books. A few years later, not yet 16, she eloped during a visit to her mother and stepfather in Hollywood. The marriage was later annulled.

After returning to England, a beautiful and elegant young woman, she began to model for Norman Hartnell, and then to perform in London and Paris as an interpretive dancer, creating her own routines to music by Duke Ellington and Cab Callaway, and designing and making her own costumes. She also sang on French radio.

Just before the Second World War broke out she sailed to New York where she married Stuart Coxhead and began her long writing career. At first she tried her hand at short stories, but without much success; then she started on a novel. A friend sent the first seven chapters to Maxwell Perkins (Scott Fitzgerald's editor) at Scribner's; he accepted the book at once. It was published as *Though They Go Wandering* (1945) and followed the next year by *The Heart Has Reasons*.

For a while she returned to short stories, which appeared in *McCall's*, *Redbook* and *The Yale Review*. Then came *House of Mirrors* (1950), the

complex portrait of a landlady who exerts a hypnotic influence over the lodgers in her boarding house: "an unusual sort of book to come from a young writer", said the critic Pauline C. Coad. "It deals with facts about human personality usually not perceived except after ripe and wide experience coupled with the inquiring mind, which reflects surface appearance, striving always to get to the mainspring of human behaviour."

Living in Westport, Connecticut, in the 1950s and early 1960s, Nona Coxhead created the first fiction (correspondence) courses for the Famous Writers School. Some of her short stories were adapted for television, including a novella, *Gentle William*, which was featured on *Playhouse 90* as *House of Shadows*. Her next two novels, *Simon West* (1958) and *The Monkey Puzzle Tree* (1968), depicted suburban life, and were followed by biographies of Amelia Earhart (in 1970, under the pseudonym Nevil Bell) and Greta Garbo (1972).

By the mid-Sixties, Coxhead was at a low point in her life, having separated from her last husband. It was then that she encountered the metaphysical teachings of Ernest Holmes, known as Science of Mind, and trained under the legendary minister Raymond Charles Barker. Science of Mind, a system of constructive thinking, should not be con-

fused with Scientology. It originated at the end of the 19th century with a series of lectures delivered by Judge Thomas Troward. In them he laid out his beliefs that there is one spiritual "power" that comes from God and which is inherently good, and that it can be harnessed for the benefit of mankind and individuals.

Nona Coxhead came to England in 1968, where she found a small but flourishing Science of Mind group run by Dr Winifred Layton Gaubert. On Gaubert's retirement Coxhead started lecturing on the subject herself, first in conjunction with Michael Grimes and later on her own.

She was ordained as a Minister of Religious Science in 1968, and until the end of her life devoted herself wholeheartedly to this metaphysical teaching and as lecturer, teacher, counsellor, healer and leader gave unstintingly of herself, her time, her substance and her energy, helping people make profound changes in their lives.

Her writings expanded into studies of the mind – *Mind Power: the emerging pattern of current research* (1978) and *The Awakened Mind: biofeedback and the development of higher states of awareness* (1979), based on the work of Maxwell Cade and written in conjunction with him (he got in touch with her after reading *Mind Power*). *The Relevance of Bliss* (1985) was a study of mystical experiences and

showed how common such experiences were. *Beyond Psychology: the potential of conscious thinking* (1991) showed clearly the way that we can control our lives by conscious thinking and self-direction.

She continued to write fiction too – short stories that appeared in *Woman* and other magazines and a best-selling novel, *The Richest Girl in the World*, which was based loosely on the life of Barbara Hutton (1978).

In *Big Time Baby* (1981), *No Ordinary Madness* (1982), *The Passionate Search* (1983) and *Command Performance* (1986) Coxhead drew on her broad knowledge of Hollywood, show business, the 1920s and 1930s, but her non-fiction books were meticulously researched. She made tapes of her teachings which she marketed in a modest way and which sold well.

Nona Coxhead was passionately concerned with animal welfare and in America was for a time one of the editors of the magazine *Pet Fair*. In England she campaigned vigorously against battery hens.

FREDA STEEL JAMES

Nona Kathleen Reed, writer and metaphysical teacher: born Melbourne, Australia 22 December 1914; married first Stuart Coxhead (one daughter), second Paul Cerny (one son), third Stephen Bell; died London 16 July 1998.

Douglas Gordon

WHEN ONE of the oldest and most esteemed industrial film units in the world celebrated its 60th birthday in 1994, it is not surprising that Douglas Gordon was chosen to be its historian and to host a season of Shell films at the National Film Theatre.

From 1954, when he joined the Shell Film Unit as a trainee, until his retirement in 1995, he wrote and produced some of the finest sponsored films made in Britain, most of them for the Shell Film Unit. His productions both for Shell International and other sponsors won over 70 national and international awards, including Bafta's Robert Flaherty Award in 1976 for *The Early Americans* (made in 1975 for Shell Oil USA, directed by Alan Pendry). The film followed the rise of two contrasting American cultures from the end of the ice age to the 14th century. *The Shetland Experience* (made in 1977 by Balfour Films for the Sullom Voe Environmental Ac-

tion Group) received a Hollywood Oscar nomination.

Shell's film-making policy, based on enlightened self-interest, suited Gordon perfectly, leaving him free to produce films often with no obligation to plug a Shell product, and on subjects of scientific and environmental interest close to his heart such as *The River Must Live* (1966), a study of marine biology and river pollution; *Fate of the Forests* (1982) on the threat to tropical forests; and *For Want of Water* (1983), showing community self-help as a means of providing drinking water in rural areas of the Third World.

Of all his films, *This Land* (1972) was, according to his widow, "his most personal statement", reflecting his interest in geology which began as a boy in Wharfedale. The film examines the geological evolution of North America, covering 40 million years of earth history in 40 minutes.

Those of us who worked for him

as directors quickly came to admire his gifts as a producer: his regard for creative effort and openness to new ideas, his enviable all-round talent which encompassed directing itself, editing, scripting, commentary-writing and total technical command of all the post-production processes. His knowledge of music – like film-making, a lifelong passion – gave him a special strength at perhaps his favourite stage of film-making: working with composers – "an arpeggio over the freeze-frame perhaps".

Every film he produced gained from his imaginative input. Along with this came his canny skills as a tactician. He knew how to keep the sponsor happy; when to concede on minor matters, when to dig his heels in if the integrity of the film was at stake; and he was never combative, using his Yorkshire down-to-earth commonsense to help win the day.

Douglas Gordon's interest in

films started at the age of seven with an 8mm cine-projector. His parents attended premieres in the sitting room, where he had installed special lighting and curtains which pulled back as the first flickering image appeared. The son of a much-loved GP in Armley, Leeds, the young Gordon was forbidden to attend feature films until he was in his teens, but was allowed to go to news cinemas, where his interest in factual film-making grew.

John Grierson's essays on documentary were another profound influence, appealing to his own idealistic view that film had a social purpose, a duty to enlighten as well as entertain. At University College London, where he read History, he became one of the earliest presidents of the college Film Unit and Film Society. It was at UCL that he met his future wife, Sheila Clayden.

At the age of 19, Gordon was struck by polio. Disabled from then on, he never allowed his impediment

to blunt his relish for life or his desire to become a film-maker. But for this handicap, he would surely have become a full-time director.

His first job was in a television film library from which he moved on to become an assistant film editor and then an editor at the BBC, working on newsreels, current affairs and arts programmes. In 1959 Shell Centre sent him out to Nigeria to set up a local film unit and make a programme of films sponsored by Shell BP. He trained Nigerian technicians who were to become leading members of the Nigerian film industry, and displayed his flair for discovering and encouraging new directors.

Returning to London in 1963, he served for the next seven years as an executive producer with the Shell Film Unit before going freelance as a writer/producer with Shell as his most consistent client until he retired in 1995. Others included BP, British Transport

Films and the Central Office of Information.

At home, he was an accomplished, innovative cook and wine buff. The family was essential to his life. At work, in an industry where relationships flourish during production only to dissolve on last day of shooting, Douglas Gordon had the ability to form friendships with his fellow technicians that transcended the professional bond. His moral integrity was on the same high level as his dedication to his craft.

THEO RICHMOND

Douglas Gordon, film-maker: born Armley, West Yorkshire 31 December 1929; Assistant film editor and editor, BBC Television 1952-54; trainee, later film director, Shell Film Unit 1954-63; Executive Producer 1963-70; Producer and Manager, Film Centre International, Lagos, Nigeria 1959-63; married 1953 Sheila Clayden (one son, one daughter); died London 18 August 1998.



Gordon receiving Bafta's 1976 Robert Flaherty Award

BIRTHS,
MARRIAGES
& DEATHS

BIRTHS
Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith
have the pleasure to announce
the birth of a son to their
children, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith
born on 15th August 1998 at
St. Mary's Hospital, London.
Weight 7lb 10oz. Length 20in.
The parents are Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith
of 12, The Green, London SW18.

DEATHS
Mr. J. H. Smith, 78, of 12, The Green,
London SW18, died on 15th August 1998
at St. Mary's Hospital, London.
He was the husband of Mrs. J. H. Smith
and the father of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith.
He was buried in the parish church of St. Mary,
London, on 18th August 1998.

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Alain Marion

ALAIN MARION was one of the finest flute players of modern times. Both as a performer and as a respected teacher of his chosen instrument, he helped to ensure that the style and traditions of French flute playing – broadly speaking, the international style of today – will be heard and observed well beyond the dawn of a new millennium.

The "French School" of flute playing is characterised by an elegance of sound, a vibrato, where appropriate, by the use of an expressive vibrato. Its origins lie in the playing and teaching of Paul Taffanel and Philippe Gaubert at the Conservatoire in Paris during the early part of this century. Their mantle was inherited by the great Marcel Moyse, whose playing and teaching influenced many of today's foremost flautists, including the virtuoso James Galway.

With the advent of recordings and radio broadcasts, the sound of the French style as executed on an instrument made of silver, or in some cases gold, came as a revelation to many players. This was particularly so in Britain where the wooden flute, and especially those manufactured by the London firm of Rudall Carte & Co, was still the professional's preferred (and often the only available) choice of instrument. Indeed, there were still some orchestral players in this country at that time playing on flutes which used the old "simple system" or the "1867" system of fingering and key mechanisms whereas, on the continent, the Boehm system had been adopted almost everywhere.

In the mid-1930s, Geoffrey Gilbert – Sir Thomas Beecham's flautist – was one of the first players from this country to "convert" to the French style of playing. (He had learnt that recording companies were refusing to record English players.) Many soon followed his example.

Alain Marion was born on Christmas Day 1938 in Marseilles. He studied the flute at the Conservatoire there under Joseph Rampal, father of the flautist Jean-Pierre Rampal, and gained a prestigious *premier prix du flûte* while he was still only 14 years old. Marion later studied with Rampal fils at the Paris Conservatoire. In 1961, he announced his presence to the musical world when he carried off a prize at the Concours International de Genève.

Three years later he was appointed first flute in the chamber orchestra of the broadcasting company ORTF, and after another three years, to the Orchestre de Paris. He became *flûte solo* of the Orchestre National de France in 1972.

Although Marion could have settled for a career as an orchestral player, his virtuosity and musical energies always drove him to seek fresh challenges and in 1977 he joined *l'Ensemble InterContemporain*, the modern music ensemble directed by Pierre Boulez at Ircam (Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique) in Paris. In collaboration with Boulez, Marion interpreted and performed countless pages of new music to the very high standards both men shared.

But Marion was equally at home in all styles of music and played all of the vast repertoire written for the flute: on one of his many CD recordings he performs concertos from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries by the composers François Devienne, Wilhelm Bernhard Moique and Jacques Ibert – this last



work being one of the most difficult concertos written specifically for the flute. He professed a special admiration for the music of the great baroque flautist-composers and drew inspiration from their works. Also, he recently demonstrated his enthusiasm for the music of the Czech composer Bohuslav Martinu on a CD of his chamber works issued by Analekta. This recording was an editor's choice of *Gramophone* magazine in September of last year.

Not only was Marion a professor at the Paris Conservatoire but, since 1969,

crowded with young musicians and the competition to take the stage with Marion was often fierce. Those whose determination propelled them on to the platform were subjected to a thorough and sometimes ruthless probing of their technical and musical weaknesses.

Unlike some teachers on the international circuit who can only give one without the other, Marion, having identified their problems, would suggest and dispense the means whereby these difficulties might be overcome. And at the end of every student's time under the

solvable through exercise and on one occasion revealed to his class, "Playing the flute is easy. If it was difficult – I wouldn't do it."

Fashions change in musical instruments just as they do in haute couture and even some French flautists are again taking up the wooden flute, once considered only suitable for players of baroque music – and the English. While many players still favour the old silver instruments hand-made by Louis Lot – the Stradivari of the flute – Marion preferred a modern 14K gold instrument made by the Japanese flute manufacturer Sankyo. A gold flute is not simply a status symbol: many players find such instruments more suited to their style of playing. Certainly the extraordinary sounds Marion conjured from his flute, sadly now only to be heard on his many recordings, are proof of this.

Alain Marion embodied *joie de vivre*, not only in his music but also in his everyday life, especially with his family. Apart from the terrible loss to his family and close friends, his absence will be felt by the many students who were fortunate to have benefited from his teaching. They should remember another of his sayings: "I know the greatest teacher in the whole world. C'est vous-même."

LAURENCE JOYCE

Alain Marion, flautist; born Marseilles, France 25 December 1938; married (one daughter); died Seoul, South Korea 16 August 1998.

He regarded all problems as solvable through exercise. 'Playing the flute is easy,' he said. 'If it was difficult – I wouldn't do it'

he had taught every summer at the Académie Internationale d'Été in Nice, taking over as director of this institution in 1966. He enlisted the services of the finest international soloists and teachers on the courses, including Henryk Szeryng, Jessye Norman and Jean-Pierre Rampal.

Hundreds of students came from all over the world to attend the classes at the Nice Conservatoire, including many from the United States, which he had visited as a guest teacher in San Francisco. His own masterclasses were always

spotlight, especially for those whose talents had yet to flower: there were always words of encouragement – and usually a Gallic grin.

Very often the difficulties were due to deficiencies in technique and he would emphasise again and again the importance of adopting a rigorous daily regime of scales and technical exercises – and sticking to it no matter how one felt. He advised students, "In your practice, there is no such thing as a bad day. To anyone else it will sound just the same." He regarded all problems as

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

BUTTERFIELD: Diana (née MacLehose), died peacefully after an illness bravely borne on Thursday last, at home. Private cremation on Thursday 27 August. Memorial Service at Shipton Parish Church at 2.30pm on Saturday 26 September 1998. Any donations (please) to: Willow Wood Surgery, Milton-under-Wychwood, Oxon – marked "Diana".

DIXIE: Paul Arthur Grosser, of Little Easton, on 19 August, after a short illness and 83 wonderful years. Adored husband of the late Mary loving father, "golfing" grandfather and great-grandfather: a special friend to so many of us and our children. Private cremation. A thanksgiving service will be announced elsewhere in his memory will be welcomed by the Community Alliance, or Sight Savers International, c/o 14 Pennine Road, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 7DW.

SCHOFIELD: Jean, aged 75, died very peacefully 20 August, at the Royal Star & Garter Home, Richmond, after a painful period of illness and suffering. A much loved wife, mother and grandmother. Funeral details from Andrew Holmes & Son 0181 744 1125.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Paul Barker, writer and broadcaster; 63; Miss Liz Bawidge, president, National Council of Women; 53; Vice-Admiral Sir Stephen Beribon, 76; Mr Ken Biggs, Headmaster, Chew Valley School; 55; Mr Alan Brookler, chairman, Kodak International; 67; Miss Antonia Eyatt, writer; 62; Mr Charles Causley, poet and broadcaster; 81; Lord Cheddingham, chairman, IPR; 56; Mr Brian Cotter MP; 66; Mr Carlo Curley, organiser; 46; Professor Terry Dowling, graphic designer and illustrator; 52; Mr Clifford Forsythe MP; 69; Sir Michael Franklin, former senior civil servant; 71; Mr Stephen Fry, actor and writer; 41; Lt-Col Sir John Johnston, former Comptroller, Lord Chamberlain's Office; 76; Mr Richard Meale, composer; 66; The Right Rev Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Roman Catholic Bishop of Arundel and Brighton; 66; Sir Graham Swannick, former High Court judge; 82; Mr Sam Torrance, golfer; 46; Mr Hugh Wright, former Chief Master, King Edward's School, Birmingham; 60.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Robert Herrick, poet, baptised 1591; George Stubbs,

animal and portrait painter; 1724; William Wilberforce, philanthropist; 1759; Eugene-François Vidocq, adventurer and detective; 1776; James Weddell, Antarctic explorer; 1787; François-Clement Théodore Dubois, composer and organist; 1837; Felix Josef Mottl, composer; 1856; Sir Max (Henry Maximilian) Beerbaum, writer and caricaturist; 1872; Jean Rhys, novelist; 1894; Jorge Luis Borges, writer; 1899; Graham Vivian Sutherland, artist; 1903.

Deaths: Pliny the Elder, naturalist and writer; 79; Alaric I, King of the Visigoths; 410; Francesco Parmigianino (Girolamo Francesco Maria Mazzola), artist; 1540; Gaspard II de Coligny, French admiral and Huguenot leader, killed 1572; Jean-François Paul de Gondy, Cardinal de Retz, politician; 1679; Colonel Thomas Blood, adventurer; 1680; Thomas Chatterton, poet, committed suicide 1770; Nicolas-Léonard Sadi Carnot, physicist; 1832; Theodore Edward Hook, playwright and writer; 1841; Margaret Fairless Barber (Michael Fairless), essayist; 1901; Alfred Stevens, painter; 1906; John William Dunne, philosopher; 1949; Getúlio Dornelles Vargas, Brazilian president, committed suicide 1954; Ronald Arbuthnot Knox, theologian and essayist; 1957.

On this day: the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum were buried under volcanic ash after the eruption of Vesuvius; 79; Rome was captured by the Visigoths; 410; England achieved her first naval victory in the Battle of the Key, when Hubert de Burgh defeated the French fleet under Eustace the Monk; 1217; the Massacre of St Bartholomew occurred in France when thousands of Huguenots were killed in Paris; 1572; Calcutta was founded by Job Charnock at Sutanati; 1690; the English-Dutch Fleets defeated the French at the Battle of Malaga; 1704; Washington DC was captured by British troops, who burned down the White House; 1814; US troops were routed by the British at Bladensburg, Maryland; 1814; Matthew Webb was the first man to swim the English Channel; 1875; the Allies retreated from Mons; 1914; the outskirts of London were raided by Zeppelins, killing eight people; 1916; Mustafa Kemal, leader of the Turkish army, threw Jack the Greeks at the Battle of the Sakkaria River; 1921; the *Manchester Guardian* was renamed the *Guardian*; 1958.

Today is the Feast Day of St Andronicus or Owen, St Bartholomew and The Martyrs of Ulice.

CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev Rupert Morton, Assistant Chaplain, Costa Blanca Church of the Holy Spirit, Spain (Europe); to be Chaplain, Helsinki St Nicholas, Finland (same diocese).
The Rev Bryan Paradise, Rector, East Horsley St Martin (Guildford); to be also Rural Dean of Leatherhead (same diocese).
The Rev Andrew Thomas, Team Rector, Needles St Edmundsbury and Ipswich; to be also Priest-in-Charge, Worthingham with Barley and North Cove (same diocese).
The Rev Kenneth Vick, Vicar, All Saints St Mary Magdalene (Wiltshire); to be Master of the Archbishop Holgate Hospital (same diocese).
RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS:
Canon Martin Coombe, Team Vicar, Dorchester St Peter and St Paul (Oxford); to retire 13 September.
Canon Dr Robert Crossley, Team Rector, Camberley St Paul, and Honorary Canon of Guildford Cathedral (Oxford); to retire 31 October.
The Rev David Fletcher, Rector, Oxford St Ebbes with Holy Trinity and St Peter (Oxford); to retire 31 August.
The Rev Brian Weaver, Rector, Netley with Rix and Highmore (Oxford); retired 26 July.
The Rev Harry Morris, Curate, Dymchurch Church (Diocese); retired 31 July.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES

LEE SILVER

Mankind is on the verge of self-evolution

BEGINNING ALMOST two centuries ago with Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* countless works of fiction have focused on the theme of men who attempt to create human life or enhance it beyond its "natural" form. While the stories may differ in detail, the moral is the same. The creation of human life belongs to God.

The *Frankenstein* theme for many years lay securely within the realm of fiction. But now, as we approach the beginning of the third millennium, reproductive and genetic technologies are racing ahead faster than anyone could have predicted. Genetic engineering and the enhancement of human embryos will soon be a real possibility. Suddenly, we are forced to contemplate exactly what the moral objection to genetic enhancement is based on.

When forced to go beyond religious incantations, many people find it hard to formulate a clear answer, so they fall back on the *Frankenstein* idea that "it shouldn't be done because it won't work". But science has moved on. This is not to say there aren't sometimes unintended negative consequences of attempts to improve the human condition. Of course there are, and there always will be.

However, the 20th century has witnessed a series of biomedical advances that have greatly improved human health and increased longevity. The ultimate frontier for genetic enhancement will be the human mind. It is in this realm that many claim we cannot advance, for we are exactly what God intended us to be. But if our *Homo erectus* ancestors had the ability, they probably would have thought the same thing, 1.5 million years ago. Since that time, the human brain has doubled in size. Why then can't we evolve even further in this direction? It won't happen "naturally". The most important evolutionary consequence of civilisation is that greater intelligence – no matter what its root basis – does not lead a person to have more children. And it's only those genes that increase reproductive output that are "naturally" selected. Thus, the natural evolution of intelligence has come to a grinding halt.

Nevertheless some are convinced that further evolution of our minds will occur. It's just the driving force that will be different. Instead of evolving naturally, the present-day human species is on the verge of being self-evolving. On earth alone, we



Dolly the sheep: genetic enhancement

have five billion years left before the sun burns out. Can anyone really believe we will never learn how to enhance mental capacity when the technology is practically at our doorsteps today?

Of course, just because something can be done does not mean that it will be done. But the driving force behind self-evolution is as transparent as can be. Parents have always wanted to give their children all possible advantages in life, and what could be more advantageous than increased mental abilities? How much money will that be worth? Certainly as much as an education at an American Ivy League university, which now runs to more than \$100,000. And where there's a demand, there will be a market.

This brings us to the real moral problem with genetic enhancement. It is not that the technology is inherently bad, or that people will use it for harmful reasons. On the contrary, the power of the technology is so great that it could disadvantage those children whose parents were unable to afford to give it to them. Unfortunately, this has never been considered a valid reason to ban a technology in democratic societies. And thus, the inevitable outcome of a market-based economic system could be a genetic gap between classes of GenRich and GenPoor that becomes wider and wider with each future generation.

Lee M. Silver is the author of *Remaking Eden: cloning, genetic engineering and the future of humankind* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson £20)

A Bible of raciness and splendour

THE INDEPENDENT
ARCHIVE
24 AUGUST 1989

Enoch Powell salutes the memory of William Tyndale, a new edition of whose translation of the New Testament is about to be published

AN ENGLISHMAN, William Tyndale, lay languishing in prison near Brussels in 1535 before being put to death for heresy by the Spanish authorities. He petitioned for a Hebrew Old Testament, a Hebrew grammar and a Hebrew dictionary to continue his study of that language in his damp and gloomy dungeon. In England, which he had left forever in 1524, there was neither study nor teaching of Hebrew. Greek was another matter; for a generation past it had been growing vigorously in the universities and would soon be part of the school curriculum.

Tyndale was a born translator. If his countrymen, from prince to ploughman, were to have access to the Bible in their native tongue, it was from the Hebrew and Greek that he must translate it. Scouted and ridiculed by a Church of England still Roman, it was in Germany and the Low Countries that Tyndale did so and found people who would print the results, though the authorities in England bought up the books and burnt them as soon as or before they could be imported.

Tyndale triumphed – his work, that is, though scarcely his fame. Not till modern times had the Bible ever again to be translated from the original languages into English. Coverdale's Bible, the Great Bible, the Bishop's Bible, the Geneva Bible, yes, the King James Bible were essentially derived directly or indirectly from Tyndale, altering, correcting, overlaying, but never extinguishing the splendour which the English language had revealed under Tyndale's hands. And so it comes about that his phras-

es live on our lips today: "Eat, drink and be merry"; "clothed and in his right mind"; "the scales fell from his eyes"; "Am I my brother's keeper?" It was a happy and, I suspect a generous decision of Yale University Press to present Tyndale's New Testament anew in a worthy and monumental edition.

The raciness of Tyndale, which we can enjoy and value to this day, owed much to his escape from the Latin of the Vulgate, from which Wycliffe and his followers had translated, into the distinctive phraseologies of Greek and above all of Hebrew. He was sensitive enough in fact to feel, as he says in his preface, "Unto the Reader", the Hebrew phrase and manner of speech left in the Greek. Indeed, no little of the dramatic power which we sense in the English of our Bible is owed ultimately to Tyndale's candid adoption of the Hebrew preference for joining one idea to another with the simple conjunction of *vayya*, "and".

Yet the Greek remained for Tyndale authoritative. He could inform "the Reader" that in Hebrew "the future tense is oft the

imperative mode in the active voice, and in the passive ever", but when he confronted in the Lord's Prayer the puzzle of "Thy kingdom come", he would not be tempted to wonder whether it was not after all the future, "whose kingdom will come".

The early Reformers had a touching faith in getting at the text in its original tongue. "If the text be left incorrupt," wrote Tyndale, by which he meant translated straightforwardly and honestly, "it will purge itself of all manner of false glosses." They were destined to be disappointed.

The original texts, even when distilled from the oldest available sources, proved to be open to alternative interpretations. Whose interpretation, then, was a worshiping community to take as authoritative? Indulgence in this kind of scholarship could prove incompatible with undisturbed tenure of a university chair under the Prussian government. Sooner or later the Greek text too would be read not as tablets of stone but as historical evidence of a stage or stages in the creation of a book. The mirage of certitude to be procured from the original tongues had evaporated.

Such premonitions doubtless did not disturb the fortitude with which Tyndale awaited his fate. Yet he was not mistaken in his conviction that in the revival of Greek studies and the discovery of Hebrew he, an Englishman, was in the forefront of a movement that would change forever the intellectual and religious environment of European man.

From *The Independent*, Thursday 24 August 1989

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON
braindum, n.

departing Microsoft employee or contractor imparts the essential information vital to performing his or her job to the designated replacement.

Less usefully, they have come up with T.L.A. (three-letter acronym) and E.O.D. (a T.L.A. for "end of day" which takes as long to say as the phrase itself). But the most disturbing entry is "ask", used as a noun to mean question. After turning nouns into verbs for so long, have the Americans now gone into reverse?

The silent years

Most of the mistakes we make with our teenage children are inherited from our own parents. Parenting skills are learned, not instinctive. By Suzie Hayman.



When she fell out with her stepson, Alex, agony aunt Suzie Hayman suddenly discovered why so many of us fail to communicate with our teenage children

Forget the terrible twos, it's the terrible teens that really have the power to upset and confuse parents. And an unrelieved six weeks over the summer can really bring into focus the conflicts and difficulties so many of us have with them.

When my stepson was 13, for a period of around six months we hardly spoke. The relationship between him, his father and myself had been a bit sticky for some time, but it blew up into a major breach over (so we persuaded ourselves) his foolish behaviour and bad attitude. The argument was about his gap year. We had expected him to grasp this opportunity - the only time in his life when he would have 15 uncommitted months - to travel, as he had always said he would do.

He spent a few weeks in France picking grapes, then mooched around at home before finally, after six months, letting his grandfather get him a job in an office. An office, for God's sake! One day we were, as usual, bitching about him, when I heard my own voice, and it was my mother's, all those years ago, sounding off about me: the disappointment, the impatience, the insistence on doing it her way.

I wrote him a letter, immediately, saying I was sorry. I said I was sure he had a good reason for his decisions and perhaps he would have managed to explain it only we had listened. He, bless him, had more guts than me, and rang as soon as

he read it. Of course, he had a reason for wanting to stay at home: his first important relationship, a far more significant exploration than going trekking to Kathmandu. We had thought he was taciturn, evasive and lazy. In retrospect, the failure to communicate was entirely ours.

We would like to be seen by our children, family and friends as loving and capable, knowledgeable and authoritative. We would like to think that our children trust us and talk to us. The reality is often very different. The vast majority of parents flounder around in a morass of self-recrimination and confusion, feeling left out and ignored. We feel incompetent, inadequate and uniquely bad at the job. It's either that, or that we have singularly evil children who are set on humiliating us and breaking our hearts.

Teens are always saying to parents that they "just don't listen"; parents say the same thing to teens. And, much of the time, they're right. Both groups do find it difficult to explain what they want, what they need and what they are thinking. But the myth that underpins this difficulty is that parenting and communicating are arts with which we are all instinctively endowed. You hear the kids, you get the skills - they come with the package.

But they don't. We learn parenting from our parents, just as they learned it from theirs - and so on. What if somewhere along this line there was an adult whose legacy in the art of parenting was destructive?

When I talked to parents in

preparation for writing my book, what emerged strongly was that it isn't just lack of information or good role models that prevents us from parenting in the way we would wish. There are other, more subtle, more effective and more dangerous barriers. Parents who grew up in homes where sex was a taboo subject often say that they are determined to be honest with their own children and pass on positive messages. Those who have parents who are distant and uninvolved are often intent on making theirs a warm and loving family.

In the event, it's harder than we expect to break with the pattern of our own parents set. One reason is that whatever they did to you, you still love your parents. Even when, or rather especially when, your parents' behaviour caused you pain or confusion, you often find yourself following the parental script.

I saw Shelley and her husband Mark because of problems with their marriage and with their two children, 11-year-old Matt and 16-year-old Steven. Shelley particularly

felt that she was no good as a mother, and said that as long as she could remember she knew she was "no good at most things". Both she and Mark felt so overwhelmed by their own problems that they had

The vast majority of parents flounder around in a morass of self-recrimination and confusion

little energy left to cope with their children. Shelley's self-esteem was at rock bottom. When asked about her own upbringing she insisted that she had had a happy childhood with loving parents. She spoke particularly warmly about her father, who she said had a good sense of humour.

After several weeks of discussion she started talking about teasing, and it emerged that her father made heavy use of sarcasm with all his children, and was particularly prone to putting Shelley in her place. "You

know, he used to put me down when he thought I was getting too big for my boots." Getting too big for her boots seemed to mean, whenever Shelley ventured an opinion or made a request, Shelley at first claimed that sarcasm was a form of humour that everybody used and that, as her father had said, her sense of humour got her used to "the rough and tumble of real life".

She and Mark used it frequently with their children. But the more she talked, the more the tears flowed. Gradually Shelley was able to admit to herself that this "humour" had been immensely hurtful. But it was the only way she knew to relate between parent and child, and using it herself finally made her feel as if she were in control. Although she could see the devastating effect it had on her own kids, she was drawn to use the same methods her father used to make himself feel on top.

Shelley hadn't wanted to communicate with her children for one very good reason. When she listened to them, she heard herself: a confused, bullied, miserable child who

felt unvalued and unheeded. To stop herself from being overwhelmed by such memories, she replayed the events of her childhood, with herself in the position of strength.

It's so easy to fall back into all the tricks and techniques you watched your parents use on you when you were young. Sometimes the legacy you pass on is the way to tell a particular fairy story or to get out of explaining where babies come from. Sadly, the bequest is often how to be little, how to ignore, how to abuse.

Teenagers aren't the easiest creatures, but their disinclination to talk can be an integral part of the task of adolescence - to learn to make their own decisions, become their own people and be independent. We may not like it, because we fear becoming redundant and being abandoned.

As I discovered with my stepson, if we want it to improve, simply complaining may not achieve anything. How can we demand that they listen to us until we listen to them? How can we insist on respect unless we first offer it? We need to offer

respect, unconditional love and willingness to negotiate in order to give them a model of how to behave.

Shelley found that once she understood what drove her to behave in certain ways, and why she had such a poor opinion of herself and her parenting skills, she could make changes. A positive self-image led eventually to her being able to be far more positive in her parenting - praising when she was pleased rather than blaming when she was not. She listened to her sons and made a startling discovery. Not only did they begin to open up and confide far more in her, but she also began to enjoy them, and being a mum.

One spin-off of communicating with teenagers is that it makes being a parent an easier job. But the jackpot is that it makes it fun.

©Suzie Hayman

The writer is agony aunt of 'Woman's Own' and author of 'You Just Don't Listen, a parent's guide to improving communication with young people' (Vermilion, £8.99)

Big boys can cry... but only sometimes

Any time a man breaks down in tears he breaks an age-old social taboo. But the rules behind the crying game are changing. By Dave Hill

It is always a huge shock when men cry. One of the most powerful images from last week's funerals in Omagh was of Michael Monaghan, weeping helplessly as he carried his wife Avril's coffin.

We never forget the weeping of men whom we know as fathers or sons, as lovers or close friends, because it may be the most striking, sometimes shocking, evidence we ever get of their capacity for emotional agony and empathy, as opposed to the more conventional form of male outpouring - rage.

And men themselves often have indelible memories of their most uncontrollable sobs, of the mixture of fear and liberation that always accompanies even the temporary shattering of a social taboo - for that is what it is. Big boys don't cry, and don't you dare forget it.

We big boys never do. We never forget the sting of shame when our playground furies and frustrations streamed out through the corners of our eyes instead of adding force to our flying fists. We never forget the gleeful derision heaped by children of both sexes, on boys who cried easily.

I haven't. Whenever a boy cried in my early secondary school years, that time of massed hormonal turbulence, word would spread like wildfire. A large crowd would gather round him, magnetically drawn to his humiliation and the sight of his self-esteem smashed into a thousand pieces, each one a prized trophy for those with crueler, harder hearts.

His wretchedness, and the punishment he endured for it, also served as a dire warning to every other boy. It passed nobody's notice that when girls cried they would be surrounded by supportive friends,

but boys were looked upon as aberrant and untouchable, as if their tears were splashes from some dark and raging river dividing the two sexes, which it was utterly forbidden to traverse. Crying was a sign of contamination by girliness, effeminacy and, therefore, potential homosexuality, the most heinous sin of all.

Most of us collude in this ruthless gender separation, even when we sympathise. There are many contradictions at work here. Even the most remorselessly machismo corners of our culture approve of crying and other displays of unmanly emotion if the circumstances are appropriate.

Men's sport provides the most illuminating arena for these inversions of normal custom and practice. Boxers provide the starkest cases when, having pounded each other for a dozen or so rounds, they embrace inside the ring and then dissolve into muscular mush.

It is as though through battle men are deemed to have earned the right to behave in unmanly ways. Nobody accuses them of being sissies and, similarly, only those who cling to the xenophobic slight that all Frenchmen are fairies would have doubted the masculine credentials of the World Cup winners as they howled, and hugged and kissed each other's heads, before a world audience.

But that's just one paradox. While a fear of the "unmanned" male exists among both sexes, there are long traditions of approving of men who express their suffering through tears, whether real or evoked. Such encouragement for men to "get in touch with their feelings", to connect with their "feminine side", has become a feminist demand, but its

history is both longer and broader. Post-war popular music, for example, is awash with it. The American singer Johnnie Ray, whose biggest hit was called "Cry", used to break down on stage and was variously dubbed The Nabob of Sob, Cry Guy and The Prince of Walls.

Critics and public alike applauded Smokey Robinson for the songcraft and lyrical imagery of two of his finest hits, "Tracks of My Tears" and "Tears of a Clown". In 1975 Johnny Nash, another honey-voiced black American, had a number one hit in Britain with "Tears on My Pillow". Even Ken Dodd hit the sob spot with "Tears for Souvenirs".

Women who've warmed to such songs have tended to do so heartily, men rather more furtively, all part of a bigger picture of ambivalence, some of which is justified.

The notion that a man who can cry is necessarily a man of psychological maturity can be a dangerous one. Paul Gascoigne is said to have boosted the female audience for football hugely when he cried on the pitch during the 1990 World Cup in Italy, but look what we've found out about him since.

At the same, proponents of "new masculinist" men's groups believe that learning to cry together is essential to the therapeutic process of getting men "back into their balls" and, as they see it, out of their most destructive male habits.

The sight of a crying man, it seems, can signify many different things. So perhaps we would be wise not to confuse tearful emotional displays with true emotional articulation, the skill so many men lack. The continuing existence of the sometimes brutal social sanctions against this ought to bring a tear to everybody's eye.



The tears so publicly and unashamedly shed helped bring home the full horror of the Omagh bombing

JP 11/10/150

A painful mix of drive and drink

A FAMILY AFFAIR

THIS WEEK, A MOTHER AND SON TALK ABOUT HIS FORMER DRINK PROBLEM AND SENSE OF FAILURE

Jo Hansford, a "celebrity" hair colourist, has a salon in Mayfair. Her clients include Naomi Campbell, Camilla Parker Bowles, Kate Winslet and Rachel Welch. Her 25-year-old son Daniel, a music video producer, recently produced UB40's video. Before Daniel found a job in the film industry, he drank heavily and suffered from depression - an episode that deeply affected his parents.

When Daniel finished school he desperately wanted to be a professional golfer. We said we'd support him in that, because his father's a keen golfer.

But the training was day and night, and he didn't want to live like that. He tried other jobs but really wanted to get into film - he wrote a film script, and we supported him in that. He wrote to hundreds of production companies, but they sent back rejection letters.

By this time his drinking had got really bad. I had no idea at this point that it was such a serious situation, but he was nearly suicidal. It's quite frightening when you find out that your own flesh and blood so nearly went off the rails.

When he was drinking he could get quite violent. He'd become unrecognisable; smashing the house up after an evening out. Even my husband, who's a big man, found it frightening. But I don't think he realised how bad he was. Daniel didn't remember things, and a lot of the time he'd deny it.

The worst thing was his own sense of failure. He would look at me and his father and we seemed successful - my husband is a businessman and entrepreneur, and I built my business up from nothing. But nobody would give him a break. I said to him: "We didn't make it overnight. We didn't have rich parents. It's all about getting an opportunity."

He didn't realise that we cared. He felt he had to do everything on his own, and there wasn't any support. At the time, I felt rejected. I felt, for all that we'd been through, he

wasn't allowing me to help him. He was drawing away from me.

It came to a pitch one day, when he phoned and said he needed to talk, no matter what. We've always had a good relationship emotionally. When we did talk, I found that he was really on the brink of no return, and in such a state of desperation. He felt there was no point going on any more. I think he wanted to obliterate everything with drink. I did suggest getting some help and sent him to a psychiatrist, but he gave up after a few sessions. I felt I couldn't press the issue.

I think all he really wanted to do was prove himself. Then, he finally got a break; a job in film, and he's got something to really work for. He moved away from home to west London and now he says we did the right thing at the time.

As soon as he started working, he put the drinking behind him. We were so pleased and proud for him. Now I just think: "Thank God he's found himself."

When I decided to give up being a professional golfer, at around 16 years old, I felt that my

father resented the fact. I thought that I'd let him down, that all their friends would be saying "Daniel's a drop-out". I felt sorry for my parents. But I knew I wanted to work in films. I did different jobs and began to drink heavily; up to eight pints a night and then brandy or vodka. I'd become immune to the amounts.

Then I went travelling in Australia where the bars were open all night. I didn't see the drinking as a problem, because everyone was doing it.

The problems started when I was 23 and I'd come back to live at my parents' after that round-the-world trip. All I wanted to do was get into film. I was begging companies to be a runner for them. I'd send out 150 letters and get three replies back; all rejections. I thought then, "There's no chance", and started drinking masses.

But I was incredibly ambitious.



Jo and Daniel Hansford: 'We are so pleased and proud for him - thank God he's found himself'

Neville Elder

I just wanted to be successful at something and to prove it to my parents. But the doors wouldn't open.

It was weird, but I felt that I couldn't speak to my parents. I felt they were working every day God sent, and the only way they would notice me was if I did something dramatic. I would come back after a night out and trash their house.

I'd ask my father to fight me. Looking back, I think it's because I wanted my father to show me some emotion. They'd call the police and we'd sit and talk it out. I'd see my father's eyes welling up, and I'd start crying my eyes out. Then I'd feel really close to him.

I turned out ultra-affectionate but my parents have never really shown

as much emotion. I felt I had to push him to that extreme to get a reaction. It totally shocked him. He kept saying "Why? Why?"

My mother sent me to this psychiatrist. I stuck it for four sessions and he said, "Talk to me about your life." I did, and on the last day he said: "You've really got to stop drinking." I know that, when I

drank, I let the demons in, and I associated with the dark side. I would feel a build-up of anger and irritation.

Then everything changed when a friend of mine told me about a job as a tea boy in a production company. I got it and moved up the ladder from there.

I left home, set up my own com-

pany for a while and went to live in west London. I love my job, and what I'm doing.

And I'm better about the drinking, too - I'm making a conscious effort to cut down. Now I wouldn't change anything about my parents for the world, and I feel close to both of them.

INTERVIEWS BY EMMA COOK

INFORMATION UNLIMITED

ALL THE FACTS YOU NEED TO AVOID HEARTACHE
No 3: CHILDREN'S CAR SEATS

Clunk click every trip. Standards of child safety in cars are not what they should be. As many as 8,000 children under 10 are killed or injured in car accidents every year. The latest AA figures show that up to 30 per cent of child passengers are not restrained by a proper child safety seat, and, of those who are, as many as 70 per cent are wearing restraints that have been incorrectly fitted.

Road accidents are the highest single cause of accidental death for children below the age of 15. Studies done by the Child Accident Prevention Trust show that if children are suitably restrained in a car their chances of survival are greatly increased. They are 90 per cent less likely to be killed and 75 per cent less likely to be seriously injured than they would be if they omitted to wear a seat belt.

The law. Since 1989 the law has insisted that children under the age of 14 be restrained in the rear seat of cars. The driver is responsible for ensuring that this rule is followed. Children below the age of four may travel in the front seat of a car only if they are belted into a child car seat. Children over the age of four are legally allowed to travel in the front only if they are using a seat belt; but they are safer travelling in the back - again, if wearing a seat belt.

Your child's weight is the most important factor in choosing an appropriate car seat. A very skinny four-year-old may be safer riding in a seat that has been designed for a toddler. Child car seats are tested and classified by weight, and the age reference is only a guide. Not all seats fit every car, and their effectiveness in an accident is severely reduced if they are poorly fitted.

All car seats must have a British Standard "BS" Kitemark or European Standard regulations 44 E mark.

Fitting the seat. Some seats are held in place by the adult seat belt, but have their own built-in harness that restrains the child. Others use the



adult seat belt to hold both the seat and the child in place. Seats that have their own restraints are easier to manage, because when you arrive at your destination you can simply undo the seat restraint, rather than looping the adult belt right out of the chair.

When fitting the seat into the car, check that the seat belt is long enough to go over the child, and that the seat fits tightly into the recess of the back seat.

Rear-facing baby seats. Used from birth through to about 12 months, depending on the baby's weight, this type of car seat usually doubles as a baby-carrier, and is the safest type of restraint available for infants. It has its own harness, and the seat is held in place by the adult seat belt. When it is fitted in the front seat it also allows the driver to have eye contact with the baby. Babies of low birthweight may require extra support to prevent them rolling around. It's safest to carry your baby facing the rear for as long as possible.

Never use a rear-facing seat if the passenger seat has an emergency air-bag. And don't be tempted to turn a rear-facing baby seat around so that the baby faces the windshield.

Booster seats and cushions. These are intended for children who are too large for a child car seat. By raising the child in the car seat, they position the adult seat belt correctly over the child's shoulder and pelvis.

What to look for in a seat. Harness adjusters should be positioned well away from the child's neck, for comfort.

An easily assembled, adjustable harness and buckle make loading and unloading a lot more speedy.

The harness buckle should be over the child's thighs and hips, not the stomach.

An adjustable head-pad. Machine-washable covers.

Easy-to-follow instructions for fitting and adjustment.

Safety advice. The seat belt buckle should be well clear of the car seat frame, to avoid the possibility of its being jolted open.

Never buy a second-hand restraint or child-carrier.

Never use a seat or a carrier that has been in an accident. It may be damaged or unsafe, even if it looks OK.

Adjust the seat's internal harness every time the child is put into the seat.

Watch out for metal catches or a metal frame that could heat up in the sun and burn the child.

Never leave a child alone in a car.

Useful numbers. RAC National Technical Centre: 0990 313131. AA: 0161 428 7671.

Some garages offer advice and information as part of the Fit Safe Sit Safe scheme. Phone your local council's Road Safety Department for the names of participating garages in your area.

For more information send a stamped, addressed envelope to the Child Accident Prevention Trust, 4th Floor, Clerks Court, 18-20 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3BA.

Women Unlimited - The Directory for Life is published by Penguin, price £9.99

Preparing for the worst

Forget about the nightmare of a holiday spent with the family. Simply getting ready for it is horror enough. By Pru Irvine

THERE HAS to be a reason for that weary comment (a cliché, but still true) that the problem with family holidays is that when they are all over you need another one - preferably by yourself. For me, it's the agony and stress that goes into holiday planning. I find myself asking yet again: "Now, boys, have you got everything? And I mean everything, because I'm not taking responsibility for what you forget."

"Mum, Mum," says Lewis with an air of hysteria. "You only asked us to pack our toys."

I've been washing for three days and we've all been wearing the same clothes for a week. I mean, I'm not travelling with dirty linen and I'm certainly not coming home to more than the normal three-ton load. There's still two kilos of green beans in the fridge so we'll have them for breakfast. Perhaps I could drizzle some fine olive oil over them, sprinkle with breadcrumbs from the last stale loaf and pop it all under the grill. If we all wear sunglasses we can pretend we're already in Italy.

The wardrobes and the fridge are now empty. If we sit at the kitchen table for the next 24 hours I won't even have to make the beds. I'm just about ready for three days in the car when my husband asks, casually but firmly, if I've managed to collect his cleaning, buy film and get currency?

When I suggest I could maybe put a brush up my arse and sweep the stairs at the same time, he stomps out muttering something about being just like my mother.

How did we get to this point? This year's summer holiday began the moment we arrived in our rented Spanish house last year. "Yes! This is great," we said. "We'll book it now for next year." Two weeks later the thought had vanished and we arrived home relieved not to have to think about the next holiday for at least six months. January is the serious time to start planning. So by May we finally get around to discussing it like a domestic chore that must be done.

I want to go to a very expensive hotel in a beautiful European city where they change the sheets and



What is the answer to this domestic dilemma? Don't have children, or don't go on holiday

towels every day and where the washing miraculously disappears and returns before you've noticed.

Over the next week we "discuss" which kind of house we want. I want one with a village we can walk to for a drink and a meal. He wants one where the only sound to be heard is the hissing of the local snakes. The children just want to take all their friends. Of course we find one eventually that has everything we need, provided we take at least another eight members of the family with us to cover the cost.

"Darlings," I coo. "Isn't it lovely, we're going on holiday with both sets of grandparents, Uncle Sam, Auntie Jessica, Henry and Lindsay?"

"Are we ever going to have a family holiday that's just just us and you and Dad?" whines someone.

In the end it really does all work

for dinner and I'm not leaving them with a strange babysitter.

And me? Well, I must finish the washing, brief the daily pay gardener and milkman, cancel the papers, pack, get the car serviced, persuade my husband it's going to be marvellous and tell the children to stop complaining and be grateful that Mummy and Daddy can take them on a holiday at all.

I wanted this piece to be constructive, but I can't think of anything constructive to say. How about don't have children, or don't go on holiday?

out swimmingly. Everybody is leaving from a different airport or train station and we're all to arrive on different days at different times. The children don't want to come, and my husband is too tied up at work to be excited. And quite frankly, he says, it's not exactly the sort of holiday he would have chosen anyway.

And me? Well, I must finish the washing, brief the daily pay gardener and milkman, cancel the papers, pack, get the car serviced, persuade my husband it's going to be marvellous and tell the children to stop complaining and be grateful that Mummy and Daddy can take them on a holiday at all.

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Normal
service
may not
resume

Families Anonymous (supporting families): 0181-460 5413. **Streetscene** Bournemouth (residential treatment): 01202 293660. **Hetty's** (supporting parents and carers): 01623 862449. **Release, drugs, help line**: 0171-729 5255

هكذا مني الى كل

'Dumbing down' looks to be the least of BBC Radio's worries - its increasingly urgent problems are technical. By Robert Hanks

Normal service may not be resumed

LAST YEAR, during the back-slapping that marked the 40th anniversary of *Today*, it was cited as evidence of the programme's importance that it had been used as a marker of extremity by our Polaris submarines: in the event of an ominous loss of communication from the UK, they would try to pick up *Today* at 8am GMT. If the *Today* programme wasn't there, it would be deemed that Britain had suffered a devastating nuclear attack, and the subs should respond by launching their own warheads.

I believe this practice has lapsed. I certainly hope so, because while *Today* has not yet failed to appear, just about everything else that can go wrong, has gone wrong.

In the last few weeks, listeners have been treated to *Thought for the Day* delivered against a constantly trilling telephone; *Thought for the Day* delivered down an ordinary telephone, with sound quality roughly equivalent to battlefield dispatches from Kinshasa; just-interviewed politicians mumbbling "Was that all right?" in front of microphones that were supposed to have been switched off; taped features erupting into *Pinky and Perky* gabble; and God knows how many interviews having to be abandoned mid-stream because of inadequate communications.

Last Friday, we were promised Tony Benn talking about American missile attacks - instead, we got the Mongolian throat-singers from the Edinburgh Festival, who had been

on the day before. If the decision to start an all-out nuclear war still depended on the technical competence of the *Today* production team, our chances of lasting past Christmas are not much better than even.

It is not fair to pick on *Today* alone, though: the same sorts of problem are rife at BBC Radio right now. News has suffered the most. Among a number of incidents: on Tuesday 4 August, the *Six O'Clock News* on Radio 4 fell off the air quite spectacularly, leaving an embarrassed continuity announcer to play trailers and, eventually, CDs of soothing classical music (even the CDs weren't cued up properly - we were promised Tchaikovsky, but had to settle for Massenet). The whole mess took something like five minutes to sort out. When the link to the newsroom was finally restored, the listeners could plainly hear Laurie McMillan, the newsreader, plaintively saying, "Lucy, I've got two cues".

Two days after that incident, six o'clock chimes from Big Ben were followed first by silence, and then by an apologetic continuity announcer and another batch of trailers. At least listeners are getting to know Radio 4's new schedules thoroughly.

Some of this has been put down to "teething troubles" following changes in the way BBC news operates - specifically it has been shifted out of Broadcasting House and moved to a new building in White City. But teething troubles can't account for some of the other technical

gaffes that have been going on elsewhere. At the beginning of June, a session by Willy Nelson, on Andy Kershaw's Monday night show on Radio 1, simply vanished about 10 minutes before the end, to be replaced by dance music; and no apology or explanation was offered to listeners.

On a Sunday afternoon in mid-June, a feature on Andy Warhol, part of Radio 3's *Centurions* series, suddenly jumped back several minutes and repeated itself. An acquaintance at the BBC reports a conversation with an ashen-faced features producer, who had been listening at home to one of his own (pre-recorded) programmes when he heard the presenter addressing him directly: "I'm sorry, Bob, I didn't like the way I did that - I'll read it again." Meanwhile, recent editions of Radio 4's programme of listeners' comments, *Feedback*, have been dominated by complaints about wildly fluctuating sound levels.

There are several reasons for what is going on here - or, if you prefer, there is just one. To take the several first: "Producer Choice", the BBC's ludicrous internal market system, has made it prohibitively expensive for producers to employ sound engineers and studio managers - in any case, a freeze on recruitment means that there are no longer many of them about.

At the same time, digital technology has offered the potential for desk-top editing of programmes, which is liberating for some producers, but an addition to an already strenuous workload for others. Programmes are being edited in un-soundproofed booths, using headphones and meters - inherently unreliable - to check sound levels, and not listened to properly before they go on air. In any case, digital technology has its own snags, including a tendency for tapes to jump backwards if disturbed.

The one reason is this: the stupidity of management - a management that puts its own convenience ahead of making programmes. Hence, as one bitter producer told me, after the multi-million-pound refurbishment of Broadcasting House: "We're being moved out to White City, so the suits can be near the restaurants."

The current regime at the BBC is too stupid even to realise what it is doing: in wrecking the BBC's

basic competence, it is destroying the Corporation's authority, the world-wide trust it has built up over three-quarters of a century.

Technical glitches are simply the most audible sign of this process. More insidiously, the BBC is losing its memory. Libraries are being dispersed - a rumour inside the BBC, which I would love to hear disproved, is that 50,000 books were sold off to a dealer for a mere £4,000. Over at White City, books are considered a luxury, and news staff have been told to do their research over the Internet - as any computer user knows, the most inefficient, time-consuming and unreliable source of information imaginable.

A producer doing research on a business corporation went to check facts with the BBC's cuttings library

(now removed from Broadcasting House to Bush House, the other end of central London from White City). He found the relevant files sitting in a skip outside.

The BBC Gramophone Library, one of the world's great sound archives, has been priced out of the market - producers now find it is cheaper to nip down to HMV to get a record. So has the Pronunciation Unit: now, faced with a difficult foreign name, presenters just take their best guess.

BBC management is constantly offering reassurance that it is not dumbing down. But if it can no longer check its facts properly, what is the difference? So be warned: you can no longer trust everything you hear on the BBC. That's assuming you can hear it at all.



John Humphrys with Kenneth Clarke MP on the 'Today' programme, which is now beset with myriad technical and organisational gaffes

Buddy, can you spare some time?

Give time, not money. Comic Relief's founder wants us all to donate a few hours of our week to others. By Yvonne Roberts



Jane Tewson: still causing seismic shifts in our attitudes to charity

TIME, in the western world, is fast assuming the value of gold dust. Spending time on yourself; finding time for others. Squeezed, rationed, stretched - can we be persuaded to give just a little of it away? More precisely, might we be seduced into volunteering 120 minutes of the average working week? Donate it on the chance that it might restore a rotting sense of community; fill a spiritual void; generate some fun and help ourselves by helping others?

The virtue of doing things together doesn't sound like the most alluring activity on offer, but Jane Tewson is accustomed to transforming the rusty into the feisty. In the early Eighties, when charity was viewed by many as a genteel activity for retired middle-class housewives, Tewson decided a seismic change was in order.

She was 26, with little in the way of contacts - and absolutely nothing in the way of cash. In 1984, she persuaded PR man Sir Tim Bell (and later Richard Branson) to give her £12,000 a year. She used it to establish Charity Projects, co-founding Comic Relief and launching Red Nose. Now, three out of four of us become involved in Red Nose madness. Over £112m has been raised.

"Jane opened up fundraising to a whole new audience," says Stuart Etherington, chief executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations. "She altered our view of charities," agrees MT Rainey, co-founder of the successful advertising agency Rainey Kelly Campbell Roale and a Charity Projects trustee. "Now with Pilotlight, she's breaking new ground again."

Eighteen months ago Tewson, now 40, left Comic Relief and established a new charity, Pilotlight. Its aim is not to raise money but to "ignite social change by opening up new thinking, new channels of communication and new resources."

Pilotlight already has a number of schemes under way including land rights in Africa and work with the young disadvantaged. What Tewson also intends to do is to shake up the world of volunteering. "We're talking about a very big idea," she explains. "A social revolution."

For months now, she and her staff have been in consultation with the voluntary sector and influential networks acquired during the Red Nose era. Presentations have also been made to Gordon Brown and Tony Blair. The aim is to launch late in the autumn. Tewson assesses that it may be several years before the results become unmistakable.

The name of the new project is

ONE20. That and its slogan, "Take Time, Give Yourself" have been created by MT Rainey and a group of trustees. The message, she explains, is intended to be classless, not overtly cool and far removed from worthy. "We want to give the idea such a buzz that those who don't participate think they're missing out," she explains.

"It's early days for ONE20 yet, but time having value has a particular resonance," says Alan Yentob, director of BBC television, originally recruited to Charity Projects by Tewson in 1984 and a supporter ever since. "As is the idea that you, as an individual, can make a difference. What is also crucial is that Jane is inspired and inspiring."

The battered municipal grandeur of Canning Town Hall in Newham, the most deprived borough in the country, initially appears an unlikely site to examine the radical impact of volunteering and its potential for regenerating the community. But for five years, this has been the home of Community Links, a network of

projects run by local people for local people, one in four of whom lives on benefits. From this centre, and 60 satellite sites, such as schools, 400 volunteers and a paid staff of 80 offer help to several

'We need to find a new phrase for "volunteer" and a fresh definition of philanthropy... we need new ways of recruiting volunteers'

hundred adults and 2,000 children and young people every week. Community Links has been one of the schemes Jane Tewson says has moulded her thinking on the importance of giving time. David Robinson, its director, born and

bred in the neighbourhood, explains the philosophy that drives it. "Individually our groups offer limited support; together they build a ladder out of poverty. After practical help comes a chance for training to assist others, then, perhaps, the opportunity of a paid job. Ideas come from the ground up. Our view is that everyone has something to offer."

Walk through the town hall and the scale of activity is outstanding. Among those offered support are children at risk; teenage parents; transients; Asian women experiencing domestic violence, and youngsters with next to nothing.

"Most boys around here, by 12 or 13, see themselves as hard little geezers," says Jan, a youth worker. "But as soon as we take them camping, they're playing cowboys and Indians just like other kids."

Advice is also given on housing, debt management and benefits. Self-sufficiency is encouraged. Eighty per cent of the help is given by those who have been helped.

Community Links (whose motto

is "Believing we can, we do") constantly monitors its results. One example: nationally, four of our five young offenders given a custodial sentence reoffend within a year. At Community Links, the figure is one in five.

The project is, of course, no overnight sensation; big ideas often require long-term germination. David Robinson, 42, established Community Links in a lock-up shop in East Ham in 1977, with no money and the help of friends. "Why did we start?" he says. "Because we could not bear to see the waste in talent."

Jane Tewson is banking on the fact that the spirit of co-operation that has worked so well for Canning Town may begin to move middle England (and Scotland and Wales).

The hurdles are huge, though. Surveys tell us that young people in particular loathe the term "volunteer". While half the adults in the country give their time to voluntary work, on average, for four hours a week, the commitment of the young has diminished significantly. It has declined from over two to only half an hour a week in a handful of years. The young say they are deterred by the inflexibility of the voluntary sector; its image and the complaint (expressed by over 70 per cent of all volunteers) that their time is not best used.

"We need to find a new phrase for 'volunteer'," Jane Tewson argues. "And a fresh definition of philanthropy - one which makes the exchange in volunteering a matter of mutual benefit, not of doing good to others."

"We need to devise new ways of recruiting volunteers and building confidence," Tewson explains. "So, for instance, the homeless person who can play an instrument, is encouraged to teach it to children in school."

She says there is also the immensity of the millennium with its connotations of a fresh start - and, of course, the continuing of indefinable Diana factor. "She made us remember those on the outside," Tewson comments. "And the importance of making connections."

Paul Jackson, BBC controller of entertainment, a Tewson volunteer since 1984 and a Pilotlight trustee, is excited by what lies ahead. "Like all strong ideas, ONE20 is simple," he says. "It's rare in one's life that something comes along which has the potential to make such a massive impact. Red Nose changed the nature of giving," he adds. "Exponentially, ONE20 could change the fabric of society itself."

Stuff this for a dog's life lark

IN THE STICKS
STEVIE MORGAN

IF IT wasn't for Stuffit, I would be telling you about the Barcelona taxi drivers who do flamenco clapping while driving with no hands. It's his fault I haven't been further than the Devon coast.

Stuffit is our new relief postman (Louis, our regular, is off at his cousins' in Bideford) and, unlike the usual stand-ins, he succeeded in getting home with his feet under his customers' kitchen tables eating home-made cakes. Stuffit barely gets out of his van. He just pulls up close to doors and postboxes, and stuffs the letters in higgledy-piggledy.

This is bad, on two counts. First, there is no opportunity to sit around gassing about our neighbours, and secondly, it means that the post gets here too early. Even on Saturdays.

Last Saturday that was particularly bad news, as I had just put my two children on the luxury coach to London, the new no-effort way to transport them to see their father. "There's a stewardess on duty to supervise them," he'd told me. But when I left them in seats 15A and 15B, the only people in sight were three lads out of *Trainspotting*, a fat man with tattoos on his belly, and two besuited androids.

The experience was so traumatic that, by the time I got home, I'd determined on a restorative escape to Spain, starting just the moment that ex-hubby rang me to say that my babies were safe. But just as I drew up to our gate, Stuffit drew away - a full three hours before Louis would have appeared. Atop the crumpled pile of papers was a bank statement. I don't know why I opened it (I never normally open bank statements), but once I had, it was obvious that any escaping had to be done within a budget of no more than

£18.50. That's barely the price of a place to pitch a tent. Certainly not two flights and a cheap hotel in Barcelona.

"We'll go in the van," Doug said.

"What? To Barcelona? We've only got two days!"

"No, stupid. The seaside. The beach. Chuck the futon and the dogs in the back. Easy."

So we did. For the first few miles, it seemed like a good idea. Perched high above the road, able to peek over hedgerows and see Exmoor turning into the sea, with canines Dog and No clombering waggily over my legs.

And then our pup (and part-time baby substitute), No, began to heat up in the sunlight. Never has so much gas expanded so rapidly from so small a belly. And what gas was it? Not in the whole shameful history of chemical warfare have the bad, mad biffins come up with anything half so potent. We drove with the windows down, holding our breath, and sticking our heads out to gulp air like divers.

When we got to the beach, we lay on the shingle and hyperventilated for a while. While Dog and No explored. Everywhere that No went, there was a reaction - gasps of horror; sunbathers suddenly sitting up and looking pale; readers dropping their books.

But No's beach diet of semi-rotted jellyfish did wonders for his flatulence - too late. His reputation was set as something approaching the ultimate deterrent. It afforded us a much bigger share of beach space than anyone else. So, by evening barbie time, our driftwood fire could smoke without offending anyone.

Blissfully, we watched the moon rise over the sea, then snuck away to sleep in the van. No and Dog flopped like obedient hot-water bottles on our feet, and I blessed Stuffit for his punctuality. But, like the baby he almost is, No woke us at 6am, by weeing copiously on Doug's head. Now I know why they eat dogs in Korea.

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL '98

A culture divorced from reality

Marriage at the age of nine and little or no divorce rights – a new film exposes how Iranian women are challenging archaic Islamic laws in a reconciliation of feminism and faith. By Liese Spencer

THE FAMILY Law Courts, Tehran. At one entrance men are being frisked for weapons, at another women are being made to remove their make-up. "It's a metaphor," says producer Ziba Mir-Hosseini of these opening shots, "two different entrances, two different sets of rules."

Welcome to *Divorce Iranian Style*. Currently screening at the Edinburgh Film Festival, this grainy slice of *cinéma vérité* offers a fascinating insight into the everyday workings of the Iranian legal system. In particular, it is the story of three women who visit a cupboard-sized courtroom to try to transform their lives. Jamileh is punishing her husband for beating her. Ziba is a 16-year-old schoolgirl trying to divorce her 38-year-old husband. Already on her second marriage, Maryam, meanwhile, is fighting for custody of her daughters. These, then, are our central characters. But, like all good docu-soaps, there are a host of colourful supporting players: the vry, conciliatory judge, the exasperating clerk ("your file is lost, come back in ten days"), the hawkish secretary and her smart young daughter, Parnise. Images of alien bureaucracy – an open-air bazaar of petition-writers crouched over their typewriters – combine with the universal language of courtroom drama and familial tension.

"The thinking behind the film," says director Kim Longinotto, "was to debunk stereotypes and to make a film that was fun, one that people could get in to, without just being told what to think. A lot of documentaries set in Iran focus on things completely foreign to Westerners such as martyrdom, or the war with Iraq, or the *fajr* against Salman Rushdie. One of the things we wanted to do was to show the parallels in family life."

While filming, Longinotto dispelled a few myths of her own. "I thought that Iranian men could have four wives and gain a divorce by saying 'I divorce you three times'. There are a lot of misconceptions."

"We just wanted to show ordinary Iranian women, and their family problems," agrees Mir-Hosseini. "Marriage is a difficult institution and when it breaks down it is always



Iranian women are fighting a long and steady battle against laws which leave them so vulnerable in marriage

painful. Societies have different ways of dealing with it. This film was looking at those common problems in a specific cultural context."

Unlike Longinotto, it's a context with which the Iranian-born producer is all too familiar. "My interest in the subject started with my own divorce in 1984. I was an anthropologist but without much knowledge of Islamic family law, so I educated myself and managed to negotiate an out of court settlement with my husband." Now based in Cambridge as a research fellow, Mir-Hosseini's subsequent book, *Marriage on Trial*, was the inspiration for Longinotto's documentary.

With her intimate knowledge of the legal system, Mir-Hosseini secured Longinotto and her camera

unique access. "Ziba was my guide," remembers Longinotto, "she told me what to do. When I first got there I kept trying to shake hands with people, but as a woman you're not allowed to touch men. The first time we went to the Embassy together, I was chasing this poor man around the room with my hand and he was backing away, terrified."

Finding willing subjects had its obstacles. "Some men would not allow their wives to be filmed," says Mir-Hosseini, "but most of the women were really upfront and excited about the documentary. In Iranian family courts, the atmosphere is informal and very emotional. Women would just start directing questions at us. Our presence encouraged them, but they were very, brave to

be there at all. There is a lot of pressure not to talk about personal matters in public."

As the film reveals, Islamic law gives the right of divorce to men. "They can divorce their wives without having any valid grounds," explains Mir-Hosseini, "but they have to go to the court and pay compensation, usually in the form of a marriage gift. Whereas women can only get divorce with their husband's consent, or with valid grounds, such as impotence, insanity or inability to provide for their wives financially. Incompatibility is not seen as grounds for divorce."

Racking her brains to find grounds to divorce her much older husband and return to her studies, a desperate Ziba is shown begging

for her evidently sane spouse to be tested for insanity. Later, she asks what is the legal age of marriage, only to have the judge reply that it's puberty, which can be as young as nine years old. "That scene shows how the laws are behind the reality of life," says Mir-Hosseini.

Wasn't she worried that Westerners watching the film might have gained the impression that all Iranian women were reluctant child brides? "Well, I suppose it might enforce clichéd ideas of the country," she concedes, "but the fact is that the law allows it. You can't have a law like this and at the same time promote and project a modern, enlightened image. It's a contradiction."

If the film underlines the anachronistic nature of Iranian law, it also il-

lustrates the daily social change chipping away at its monolithic authority. Maryam, for instance, is a divorced mother who has married again for love. Although Iranian law automatically awards custody to the father in such cases, she does everything in her power to keep her children – lying, shouting and even getting into a fight with her ex-husband, during which she rips up his court order. "Every woman in that court was against Maryam," says Longinotto. "They thought she shouldn't have remarried for just but kept her kids instead. I was on her side, because she's saying, 'I want my children but I want my own happiness too'."

"There are different voices of Islam," says Mir-Hosseini, "one that you hear through the law and another voice which is an egalitarian one in everyday society, and these women are expressing that voice. It's the spirit of Islam, not the letter of the law. What I find interesting about the revolution in Iran is that it has gradually created space in which Muslim women can reconcile their feminism with their faith."

For Longinotto, Parnise's after-school courtroom antics captured the perfect image of this shift in attitudes. After the judge has left for the day, the little girl climbs into his chair. Banging the table for silence, she delivers a stinging monologue, asking an imaginary husband, "why do you treat her this way, when she is trying so hard to live with you and be respectful?" Later, she tells the judge: "I knew I shouldn't marry ever since I saw what husbands are like."

Parnise may represent the next generation, but the women passing through the court in *Divorce Iranian Style* enjoyed mixed fortunes. "Ziba got her divorce but she didn't get her money," reveals Longinotto, "and Maryam lost her kids." She'd like them to see the film, but it's hard to get videos into Iran. "We've sent it to the Ministry of Justice," says Longinotto, "but they haven't allowed the women to see it yet."

'Divorce Iranian Style', Thu 27 at The Edinburgh Film House and Sat 29 at the Glasgow Film Theatre

THEATRE

OJ OTHELLO
ASSEMBLY ROOMS

IT SOUNDS pretty crass, doesn't it? A multi-media monologue that brackets OJ Simpson and Othello, Moor of Venice. The publicity blurb takes obvious points of comparison and spins them into Hollywoodspeak: "Just like OJ, he has married a young, white woman. Othello murders his wife. How about OJ?"

Despite the crude premise, Maarten van Hinte's script aims for something more complex than a game of art-versus-life Soap. If it finally gets lost in a maze of speculation, it does so out of a compelling sense of curiosity.

Van Hinte utilises chunks of text from *Othello* and the relationship between Othello and Iago as a means of describing the split personality and self-hatred of a high-achiever racked to the point of insanity by the deracination success has brought him. After scene-setting using TV footage of OJ (football hero, advertisers' dream and No 1 murder suspect), we are presented with a sharp-suited, smooth-talking family man, who (convinced of his innocence) simply wants to tell his life story. But another voice keeps breaking through, underscored by malevolent synthesised music, accusing him of having sold out and urging him that Nicole Brown was "a gold-digger, nigga".

It is to Frank Sheppard's credit that he manages to articulate both sides of the debate without falling into park-bench derangement. The accompanying jazz/hip hop soundtrack and TV monitors are surprisingly effective, not just in sustaining mood and pace but in suggesting socio-cultural forces much greater than one man can contend with. The final pathetic footage of OJ being in his Ford Bronco pursued by cops while Sheppard reads Othello's farewell monologue ("Speak of me as I am") turns a media circus into a moving piece of theatre.

Assembly Rooms, Venue 3, to 30 August, £9 (£8)

DOMINIC CAVENTISH

And not a glimpse of Carol Vorderman...

AND YOU thought Rolf Harris was catty. Sure, there were a goodly number of OAPs in lilac wind-cheaters and matching rain-hoods here, but they were far outweighed by the highest number of student cult followers this side of a late-night screening of *Withnail and I*.

The fans packing the 350-seat theatre to the gunwales weren't disappointed, either. Refreshingly, Whiteley was able to laugh at himself as much as the audience were. The boundaries of the comedy festival are now so blurred that it can easily accommodate a kitsch daytime TV presenter with the capacity to take the mick out of himself.

"After 2,600 episodes of *Countdown*, I still haven't got a catchphrase," he sighed. "Pathetic, isn't it?" That's all for Part One, see you in Part Two hasn't really caught on. "People in the street now just come up to him and sing the *Countdown* theme-tune, he lamented. "That's what I'm reduced to now – a clockface and eight notes."

COMEDY
RICHARD WHITELEY
PLEASANCE

Whiteley's tea-party was enlivened to end by his choice of guests: Alan Davies, Bill Bailey, and Johnny Vegas. It was as if he was saying: "I could never in a million years manage to be hip, but at least my guests are."

Content to let his guests take the limelight, Whiteley makes an effective chat-show presenter the certainty has the regrettable fashion-sense for the job. I feel another daytime programme coming on.

By the end, the 350 of us were putty in his hands, all quite happy to forget that that we were responsible adults and mimic the *Countdown* clock as Vegas attempted to make a teapot for Whiteley inside a minute.

After this, no doubt some smart alec journalist will soon be writing that daytime TV is the new rock-'n'-roll.

JAMES RAMPTON

DANCE
LEGS ON THE WALL
ASSEMBLY ROOMS

is given a quickie in an alley and then cast aside. This is all supposed to be funny in a "We've all been there, haven't we girls?" way. Well, I haven't been there, and I've no plans to go.

The choreography veers between circusy shows of strength and a sort of contact-improvisation-without-the-contact. The winch finally comes into its own when a woman in a harness is repeatedly flopped on top of a sleeping man.

The verbal element was weaker than the physical but included an amusing retelling of *Cinderella* in Spoonerisms: "I will make you a tragic mess," says the fairy godmother. "The handsome prince was a pretty fart smeller." But even that couldn't provide an hour's worth of entertainment on its own.

LOUISE LEVENE

RICH HALL is instantly likeable. And I don't just say that because he makes numerous jokes about the United States and their leader. No, Hall's attraction is that he gives the impression of talking with his audience, rather than down to it; he remains open and relaxed, rather than "in your face". He tackles the major issues of the day: bigotry, racism, nuclear weapons, technology, the American Way. He doesn't just rant and rave aimlessly, instead preferring to mix humour with serious opinions – something that he achieves comfortably.

Not that he's unfunny. Hall uses irony to great effect. Not least when talking about the United States' failure at this year's World Cup. "How can it be that we can put a missile through a vent in a baby-milk factory anywhere in the Middle East, but we can't put a ball in a 20ft net?"

He doesn't force his views on the audience, rather he shares them. Whether he is talking about the dangers of Pakistan having

COMEDY
RICH HALL
PLEASANCE

The Bomb, or the fact that Tom Cruise films always have the same plot, he not only keeps you laughing but also challenged.

For example, Hall talks about the achievements of modern technology and their effect on mankind: "We sent the Hubble telescope into space at an astronomical cost, and it has told us the universe is six times bigger than we had previously thought. Who cares? It's infinite anyway. The only person who's happy is Miss Universe; she's now six times sexier than she was before."

Packed with similarly clever quips, the show is simultaneously wacky and thought-provoking. Don't miss it.

Rich Hall is at The Assembly Rooms until 30 Aug

ALEX HAYES

DAY PLANNER

YOUR HOUR-BY-HOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S BEST AT THE FESTIVAL AND FRINGE

11 AM

THEATRE

11.30-12.15 *Play Wistful for Me: The Life of Peter Cook*. Few people could speak with the voice of EL Wistful as surely as Matthew Perret in this two-man show about Cook's life and work. It never outstays its welcome and individual gags are hilarious. *Pleasance Below, to 31 Aug, £5-£8 (£4-£5)*

12 NOON

THEATRE

12.30-2.00 *Richard III*. Malachai Bogdanov's toddler version of the Shakespeare play may rob the characters of their full range, but the cast achieve the fusion of kindergarten and courtly intrigue with aplomb. *Pleasance, Venue 33, today and tomorrow, £8 (£6)*

2 PM

CHILDREN

2.00-3.30 *The Nutcracker*. Tchaikovsky's ballet with spectacular giant puppets. *South Leith Parish Church Halls (venue 180), Henderson Street, until 29 Aug (not 23)*

4 PM

THEATRE

4.35-5.35 *Tamagotchi Heaven*. Adults-only tragicomic tale of a woman and her cyberpet. *Pleasance (venue 33), 60 The Pleasance (£55-£550), Price £8.50 (£5.50). Until 31 Aug.*

COMEDY

4.50-5.50 *Peepolykus – Horsers for Courses*. Acclaimed surreal comedy thriller. *Pleasance (venue 33), 60 The Pleasance (£55-£550), Price £7 (£6). Until 31 Aug.*

7 PM

DANCE

7.20-10.30 *Destino Tango*. With Dutch maestros Sexteto Canyengue and dancers Club Tango 5. *Grafton, corner of Broughton and East London Streets, Price £8.50 (£7.50). To 31 Aug (not 25).*

8 PM

COMEDY

8.15-9.15 *Mark Doherty: Fascinating Things*. Unique, surreal standup. *Pleasance (venue 33), 60 The Pleasance (£131-£55-£550), Price £7.50 (£6.50). 20, 23, 25-27 Aug.*

9 PM

COMEDY

9.00-10.00 *Jason Byrne*. Frenetic and lunatic humour from one of this year's serious Perrier contenders.



Mark Little, 10pm

The king of off-the-cuff, he takes look-at-me pebulance to an art form. His first solo Edinburgh show. *Pleasance (venue 33), Price £7.50 (£6.50). Until 31 Aug.*

COMEDY

9.25-10.25 *Al Murray: the Pub*

Landlord, Keeper of the Pint Cosmic. Cruelly denied the Perrier Award on two previous occasions, Murray returns for a third stint behind the bar with his acute observations on just what it means to be male and British. Not to be missed. *Pleasance (venue 33), Price £8.50 (£7.50). Until 31 Aug (not 25).*

COMEDY

9.45-10.45 *Junior Simpson*. More up-to-the minute material from the popular stand-up who dares to tackle issues such as the fiasco surrounding the Stephen Lawrence trial. *Assembly Rooms, to 30 Aug, £9-£10 (£8-£9)*

10 PM

COMEDY

10.15-11.15 *The League Against Tedium*. Simon Mumery's megamaniacal creation – an antidote to middle-of-the-road comedy blues

and an outside bet for this year's Perrier Award. *Pleasance Above (venue 33), Price £8-£9 (£7-£8). Until 31 Aug (not 25).*

COMEDY

10.00-11.10 *Mark Little: Spontaneous Combustion*. From the suburban Australia of *Neighbours* (where he played loveable scamp Joe Mangel) via the *Big Breakfast*, to stand-up in the Georgian splendour of the Venice of the north. Mark Little, artifice stripper, comes to Edinburgh. *Assembly Rooms, to 29 Aug, £9-£10 (£8-£9)*

11 PM

THEATRE

11.15-12.25 *Derevo*. The Russian mine company returns to the Fringe with a new show. *Pleasance, to 31 Aug, £7.50-£8.50.*

TICKET OFFERS

Take a copy of today's *Independent* to one of the venues below:

The Pleasance (venue 33) A pair of tickets for the first 10 readers at the box-office. 11am-12noon: *The Monkey and the Waterfall*. A magical array of stunts, masks and dance from Hawaii. Suitable for children.

Calder's Gilded Balloon (venue 38): The first 10 readers at the box office can claim a pair of tickets for the opening show: 7.15pm – 8.30pm: *Leandre Ribera – Clown? Cabaret? Silent movie?* A silent show with abundant imagination, visual and physical humour

Plus: five pairs of tickets 1.00pm – 3.00pm: *Flying Machine* – 150 Cigarettes (Main Theatre)

JP 11.50

TV and the new face of God

Religious programmes are adopting a daytime-TV format in their battle to escape graveyard scheduling slots. By Peter Stanford

Religion on television currently enjoys a legally-protected status which can be both a blessing and a curse. On the positive side, it means that fashionably secular commissioning editors are forced, usually against their better instincts, to acknowledge that God still does mean something to their audience. They have to find slots in the schedules for programmes on spiritual matters.

But set against that obligation is the resentment and ill-grace it generates. So try as the religious affairs department of the BBC and the small number of like-minded independent producers might to make material that stands on its own merits, they find it automatically relegated to graveyard slots - usually on a Sunday, precisely when the natural audience for such programmes is on its knees in church.

The religious programme makers have tried every trick to break free of the stereotype that regards all their output as variations on a theme of Songs of Praise. Documentary and discussion strands such as *Everyman*, *Heart of the Matter* and Channel 4's *Witness* take their specialist area into broader pastures with wider ethical resonances, while BBC's *FutureWatch*, presented by Michael Buerk, linked religion with science and embraced an X-Files techno-obsessiveness.

But most effort is currently being directed towards making religion into light entertainment. So in September, *The Heaven and Earth Show* will become a feature on BBC1 on Sunday mornings until Advent. There's a bit of cooking with Rabbi Lionel Blue and Antony Worrall Thompson dishing up "soul food". There's a smattering of interviews on faith and motivation with household names such as Jo Brand, Uri Geller and John Cleese carried out by Catrina Skepper, one-time star of the Cadbury's Flake commercials. There's debate and news, plus the show's equivalent of the novelty singing nun - Sister Wendy Beckett musing on another old master. And playing Richard and Judy on this live Sunday morning hybrid are Simon Biagi, better known for his skills with a paintbrush in *Real Rooms*, and Amanda Redington, once of GMTV.

"We represent a definite gear change for religious television,"



Catrina Skepper's sexy image, above, for 'The Heaven and Earth Show', contrasts sharply with the staid look of 'Highway', top right, and 'Songs of Praise', above



Channel 5 certainly has demonstrated that with fresh input and an unashamed avowal of belief, religious programmes can make an impact with audiences. Whether *The Heaven and Earth Show* goes one step further and proves that religion can make good light entertainment remains to be seen. While there have been previous successes, such as the BBC's award-winning *Heart and Soul* in 1996, there have been many more failures, several associated with presenters with a good deal more experience and public profile than the likes of Biagi, Redington and Skepper.

There was BBC's recent and much-panned *It's Later Than You Think*, a late-night Sunday series presented by Annabel Giles and Robert Elms. With guests such as Barbara Windsor, Mandy Smith and Jeremy Beadle, it struggled to give religion and ethics a look-in amidst a tired cocktail of comedy and topical debate. And ITV has in the past tried giving Gloria Hunniford, Sue Cook and Melvyn Bragg what were in effect chat shows but with a religious dimension.

It now, however, appears to be veering back towards a more high-brow product with the announcement last week that Bragg is to front *Christian Millennium*, a major new end-of-the-century series which will follow 2000 years of church history in 20 hour-long episodes of reports and studio debate. Having almost single-handedly revived science as a fashionable subject on the airwaves, Bragg now seems set to work his particular brand of magic with religion.

Some insiders at the BBC, though, detect more sinister motivations in the rush to use the religious affairs department's budget to make programmes that dilute their special mandate with all-singing, all-dancing concepts that arguably belong elsewhere in the corporation. There is talk of plans to cut back religion to a few core areas - notably worship programmes in the *Songs of Praise* mould for radio and TV - and move the rest of the department's current output into the wholly secular arts and entertainment empire, based, like religion, at BBC Manchester. In this scenario, initiatives such as *The Heaven and Earth Show* take on the air of manoeuvres in a forthcoming takeover battle.

says series producer, Chris Loughlin. "Too much programming is directed towards those who are conventionally religious. We want to appeal to those with nothing more than an underlying feeling that there is something more to life than meets the eye. And we don't want to be taking our agenda from 'church' news or churchy topics. That's being done well enough elsewhere. We want to look at the big questions of

life as discussed by people everywhere and present them in a way that is not an objective examination, but a heated, participatory debate." In such a catch-all formula, *The Heaven and Earth Show's* debt to daytime television is obvious. But there are signs that Loughlin may also have borrowed from the BBC's youngest terrestrial rival, Channel 5. In its first year school report, produced by the Independent Television

Commission back in May, Channel 5 got top marks for news, children's programmes and religion. In this last category, the network's output, made by the experienced documentary maker, Roger "Death on the Rock" Bolton, was praised as pacy, fresh and full of vitality despite, as the ITC bluntly put it, "a lack of financial resources". Over at the BBC, there is more money and so some of Channel 5's

bright but underfunded ideas - such as *My Sunday*, the weekly celebrity "me and my God" slot, or *Crossfire*, the phone-in debate on moral matters - have been upgraded and added into the mix at *The Heaven and Earth Show*. More interestingly, Channel 5 has shown that such material can not only win plaudits but, especially in the case of its Christian rock music programme, *The Alpha Zone*, substantial suc-

cesses. Despite being broadcast on a Sunday morning, this show, presented by Jennifer Hughes, regularly notched up one of Channel 5's higher viewing and audience-share figures. Loughlin is coy about acknowledging any direct debt, but admits to a wider link. "While other channels have been branching out in their treatment of religion for some time," he admits, "at the BBC we have kept within rather narrow confines."

What happens if the wrong sort of dreams come true?

Jonathan Coe's new novel is about sleep. And sex changes. By Baret Magarian

JONATHAN COE took the literary world by storm when he published his fourth novel, *What a Carve Up!*, in 1994, a sprawlingly complex yet completely controlled narrative that fused political satire, Gothic horror, and social realism. *The House of Sleep*, the follow-up, also cross-fertilises different genres, takes place in two time frames separated by 12 years, and blends satire with the techniques of dream disorientation. During our time together, I gained a glimpse into the nature of Coe's creative sensibilities and the way he was dazzlingly combined originality with accessibility.

The characters of *The House of Sleep* fall in and out of love with one another, long for fugitive perfection via their dreams, and fail to seize opportunities in their waking ones. The novel is about sleep disorder, love, loss and the past's emergence into the present. Towards the end, Robert, one of the central characters, undergoes a sex change that gives the book an almost surreal flourish at an unexpected juncture. Some feel that this development comes out of the blue, but for Coe it was the starting-point of the novel.

"A man is in love with a gay woman and the only way he can win her is to become female. That was the premise I began with. And it is what the novel is about, as far as I'm concerned. It was also an obvious metaphor for change. All the characters in the book are changing except for Gregory, who has no capacity for doubt or uncertainty, or any of those things. But I suppose there are people like that who, in order to get what they want, money, success or whatever, shed or suppress vast amounts of themselves."

Sarah, the book's heroine, suffers from narcolepsy, one of the symptoms of which is the belief that the events of her dreams have occurred in real life. This results in some great comic moments, but there is another, more serious agenda here.

"In the case of dreaming up a twin sister for Robert, she's obviously trying to create someone who she



Coe, a compelling storyteller

Neville Elder

sees as her ideal partner. I was also interested in that cliché about making your dreams come true, something that lovers say they want to do for one another, so I thought I would take that literally. Sarah would have this dream about a person who didn't exist and whom she wanted to love, and then Robert would actually become that person and bring her into being."

Coe's third novel - *The Durrans of Death*, which he is currently turning into a screenplay - is a very funny thriller about William, a musician who gets embroiled in the seedier side of London. William suggests parallels with Robert as both seem incapable of connecting with life on some fundamental level. The novel, like his first three books, has a small-scale feel to it. There is a huge leap from this to *What a Carve Up!*, the 500-page epic that followed. How did this come about?

"Well, I dashed off *The Durrans of Death* in just five months and, afterwards, wasn't very happy with

it. That dissatisfaction led me to *What a Carve Up!* and the impulse to write a book that I really wanted to write, over a much longer period of time. I knew I wanted to write some kind of satirical response to Thatcherism on a national scale."

What a Carve Up! combines the plight of Michael, an emotionally repressed writer, with the story of the Winshaws, an omnipotent, merciless juggernaut of a family that Coe modelled on several Tory politicians and ludicrous media figures from the Eighties. As in *The House of Sleep*, there is much juggling of different plot lines and an effortless ability to bring disparate subjects together, so that, for example, the rhetoric of the Gulf war sits alongside the spectre of Yuri Gagarin. I asked him about the decision to incorporate the war into the narrative.

"The novel came together as a narrative construct in my head at the time the Gulf war started. The mixture of physical reality and

media-filtered unreality that characterised the war is so much what the novel is about. It felt like the right thing to book the novel on to."

Before he became a novelist, Coe studied at Cambridge and Warwick universities, completing an MA on Samuel Beckett and a PhD on Henry Fielding, two of his literary heroes. How much of the academic background has a say in his fiction?

"As little as possible. I think my first novel, *The Accidental Woman*, has academic leanings in that it is a novel about authorial intentions. It's bordering on pastiche Beckett, and is greatly influenced by Watt and Murphy. The central character is the intrusive narrator. But the motto I had pinned over my desk was Hitchcock's formula for engaging an audience: torture the heroine. Now that I know a bit more about the kind of man Hitchcock was, I wouldn't adopt that approach quite so wholeheartedly."

In addition to adapting *The Durrans of Death*, Coe is currently at work on a new novel, set, during the Seventies in Birmingham, where he grew up.

"It's the most realistic and conventional of my novels so far, which is why I'm finding it rather hard going. I think it's really about my schooldays. The Seventies represented a rather shocking period of political instability, complete with power cuts, strikes, three-day weeks. We were like an Eastern European country on the verge of collapse. I want to write about that instability as if it were perfectly natural, which to a young boy it would have been, as the novel's going to be seen through his eyes."

Coe believes that there is nothing like a compelling story for drawing a reader into a book. He is also acutely aware of the way humour can sugar the pill at some of the more demanding moments. It is these factors which have, without doubt, contributed to the popular appeal of his work.

'The House of Sleep' is published by Penguin at £5.99

THE RATINGS

BBC 1

Docudramas and soaps continue to dominate the schedules; only (a repeated) *Men Behaving Badly* makes any inroads. Bubbling under: *Fawlty Towers* at number 18, with 6.14m viewers

Programme	Total (millions)
1 <i>EastEnders</i> (Thu/Sun)	14.40
2 <i>EastEnders</i> (Tue/Sun)	14.23
3 <i>EastEnders</i> (Mon/Sun)	14.12
4 <i>Changing Rooms</i>	9.04
5 <i>Neighbours</i> (Mon)	8.91
6 <i>Vets in Practice</i>	8.14
7 <i>Lakesiders</i>	8.05
8 <i>Men Behaving Badly</i>	7.91
9 <i>Neighbours</i> (Tue)	7.75
10 <i>Neighbours</i> (Thu)	7.60

ITV

Not that ITV has anything to shout about: the usual mix of soaps, broken up by the mid-week cod-roulette *Wheel of Fortune*. Could try harder: *Babes in the Wood*, at number 22 (5.88m viewers)

Programme	Total (millions)
1 <i>Coronation St</i> (Mon)	16.01
2 <i>Coronation St</i> (Wed)	14.25
3 <i>Coronation St</i> (Fri)	13.13
4 <i>Coronation St</i> (Sun)	11.15
5 <i>Emmerdale</i> (Tue/Wed)	10.36
6 <i>Emmerdale</i> (Thu)	9.99
7 <i>Emmerdale</i> (Wed)	9.85
8 <i>Wheel of Fortune</i>	8.45
9 <i>Inspector Morse</i>	8.35
10 <i>Home and Away</i> (Mon)	8.22

SKY 1

But at least the big two terrestrial broadcasters have some (however dubious) indigenous programming: only one of Sky 1's Top 10 is home-grown. And it's all about Brits abroad...

Programme	Total (millions)
1 <i>Greece Uncovered</i>	1.21
2 <i>Star Trek Voyager</i>	0.73
3 <i>Stargate SG1</i>	0.66
4 <i>The Simpsons</i> (Sun)	0.63
5 <i>Friends</i>	0.56
6 <i>The Simpsons</i> (Mon)	0.55
7 <i>The X-Files</i>	0.51
8 <i>The Simpsons</i> (Tue)	0.50
9 <i>The Simpsons</i> (Sun)	0.45
10 <i>World's Scariest Police Chases</i>	0.44

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Fatally flawed by time

He used to be talked about in the same breath as Henry Moore.
Whatever happened to Graham Sutherland? By David Cohen

There is some historic irony in staging a Graham Sutherland retrospective at the Picasso Museum in Antibes, for time has assassinated this once formidable reputation, and the sunny Riviera was the scene of the crime.

The Musée Picasso's thorough and substantial exhibition is accompanied by the only significant recent publication on the artist. In his heyday Sutherland's name was spoken in the same breath as Moore's and Bacon's as one of England's premier contemporary artists, but even before his death in 1980 his name began to slide from the history books.

And the culprit (according to some) was the Côte d'Azur, where he went to live in the Forties. At his best, Sutherland was the creator of a tough, gritty, awkward, ambiguous metaphysical nature-painting. His aesthetic, detractors said, over-ripened and softened under the southern sun.

Sutherland launched his career in the twenties as an etcher of romantic landscape idylls inspired by Samuel Palmer. He might have continued in this conservative vein had the Wall Street crash not ended the print boom. He was forced to try his hand at various arts and crafts and turned to painting as his principal means of expression. Leaving Palmer behind him, he went to a real landscape (Pembrokeshire) for inspiration, and was mesmerised by gnarled roots and lightning-blasted trees that showed nature in a dramatic state of transformation. The Antibes retrospective starts here, skipping the print-making debut. The weird, menacing forms that Nature offered him

tipped his intense romanticism into the idiosyncratically English brand of Surrealism being pursued at the time by Paul Nash and Moore. Sutherland did in fact exhibit in the legendary International Surrealist Exhibition in London in 1936.

His Thirties nature studies tended to be dark, murky and brooding to the point of inscrutability. Keeping the same palette and mood, he injected tighter clarity into his style when he was commissioned as an official war artist (on the recommendation of his friend Sir Kenneth Clark), tackling such subjects as an iron foundry and open-cast mining in Wales. Sutherland's work is at its best when he strikes a balance between his fascination with the complexities and ambiguities of Nature, and his sense of graphic control. If either tendency gets out of hand he can slip into the opposing extremes of illegibility or illustration.

His visit to the South of France in 1947 was a turning point. He met Matisse and Picasso in person, but it was in the recently bequeathed Picasso Museum in Antibes (on the Palais Grimaldi, which the Spanish artist had only recently used as a studio) that Sutherland experienced an epiphany. It was there that he realised how to combine the metamorphoses of Nature with the iconic centrality of the only really possible figure compositions.

He began a series of what he called "articulated forms", which grew into the standing forms, one of the most impressive of which, from 1952, is on loan to the exhibition from the Pompidou Centre. These menacing hybrid creatures, mutating before our eyes and yet almost statuesque in their poise, represent the perfect synthesis of fantasy and observation in Sutherland's art. And it was no coincidence, by the way, that his standing forms were exact contemporaries of John Wyndham's triffids: both grew from the same angst-ridden neo-romantic moment.

Sutherland's peak years were marked by major public commissions which absorbed his energies. In 1961 he painted a huge mural, *The Origins of the Land*, for the Festival of Britain, and for the rest of that decade he was absorbed in the great tapestry for the new Coventry Cathedral, his *Christ in Glory in the Tetramorph* (dedicated in 1964).

The 20th is an unforgiving century for artists whose reputations hang on fixed projects, and it is likely that this problem has added to Sutherland's posthumous decline. But his big commissions generated copious studies and cartoons, some of which are in the Antibes show. Another legacy of Coventry is that it gave Sutherland a taste for ambitious scale and complicated iconography, firing his dramatic large-format canvases of the Sixties and Seventies.

Even while he lived in southern climes, Sutherland imposed on his new landscape his northern romantic sensibility. True, the Riviera light encouraged a brightening of palette with daringly modern pinks and yellows and acerbic oranges; but his

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land a taste for ambitious scale and complicated iconography, firing his dramatic large-format canvases of the Sixties and Seventies.

Even while he lived in southern climes, Sutherland imposed on his new landscape his northern romantic sensibility. True, the Riviera light encouraged a brightening of palette with daringly modern pinks and yellows and acerbic oranges; but his

landscape vision had none of the *haze, calme et volupté* we associate with Côte d'Azur artists. Instead, he seemed to eke out of palm palisades and vine pergolas the gnarled contortions of form encountered in the Welsh landscape.

In 1967 he visited Pembrokeshire for the first time since the Thirties with Italian TV, who were making a film about him (his reputation in Italy is still considerable). This reconnection with a landscape in true harmony with his aesthetic vision rejuvenated his nature studies. Literally, he went back to his roots.

Another bugbear of Sutherland's reputation was his portraits. He was not essentially a figurative artist. He in fact drew his first human figure, for a crucifixion commissioned by the Rev Walter Hussey at St Martin's Parish Church, Northampton, only in 1946 (the same church has Moore's *Madonna and Child*). In 1949 a chance remark to a mutual friend that his fellow Riviera resident Somerset Maugham had the kind of face he would enjoy painting led the writer to commission a portrait. At first reluctant, Sutherland went on to produce two remarkable studies of Maugham.

Later he undertook the portraits of Helena Rubinstein, Conrad Adenauer and, notoriously, Winston Churchill, who so detested his likeness (a gift from Parliament) that Lady Churchill had it destroyed. Sutherland had a knack for seeking out a fatal flaw in his sitter's features. He liked to paint distinguished people (turning down many commissions if the personality didn't interest him) which meant that, most often, he painted older people with active minds. To some extent, his caricatures, to which he was prone, are remarkable for their subtlety and attempted reconciliation between

Sutherland and his one-time friend Bacon. Their first lunch together for years was going so well that Sutherland risked the younger man's sharp tongue and asked his opinion of his portraits. "Fine", said Bacon. "If you like Time magazine covers."

A closer look at his best works in portraiture, the second version of Maugham, for instance, included in the Antibes retrospective, belies this put-down. True, it's a likeness, faithful to the living presence of the sitter, and its animated quality has an illustrative edge. But the power comes from looking at the face as a natural thing, finding its "fatal flaw" as the element that gives life and betokens death. In other words, a Sutherland face, like his tree trunks or mutating biomorphs, reveals the intensity of metamorphosis.

The Graham Sutherland retrospective runs until 11 October at the Musée Picasso, Antibes



Above: Graham Sutherland's portrait of the writer Somerset Maugham from 1949 and left, 'Articulated Form' from the same year

Private Collection

Ringo and his pedigree chums

The ex-Beatle is back - with a lot of help from his friends. By Pierre Perrone

THERE'S A Beatles song in the charts this week ("This Boy", by the Scottish kid sensation Justin) but Ringo Starr's single "La De Da" and Vertical Man album are nowhere to be seen.

In fact, apart from his contribution to "Free as a Bird" and assorted Fab Four anthologies, Richard Starkey hasn't troubled statisticians for 23 years, when Ringo and Goodnight Vienna, produced by Richard Perry, threatened a Beatles reunion.

After losing the best part of 10 years in an alcoholic haze, Ringo came back at the end of the Eighties with his All-Starr Band, jam-packed with musicians of the highest calibre and pedigree (Dr John, Nils Lofgren, Billy Preston, Todd Rundgren) - the safest way to reclaim his status as jovial entertainer and cover up his limited vocal abilities.

These outings have offered fans a welcome chance to explore the

main branches of some great rock family trees. The current All-Starr personnel comprises the multi-instrumentalist Mark Rivera, Procol Harum's frontman Gary Brooker; the Cream bass player Jack Bruce, the drummer Simon Kirke of Free and Bad Company fame and the Seventies solo star Peter Frampton.

Following the Spectroscopic shuffle of "It Don't Come Easy" and the plodding "Act Naturally", Ringo, in characteristic beard, dark shades and orange shirt, explained that we'd spend the evening going around the band with different musicians taking the limelight.

That's fine when you're talking Gary Brooker's emotive "Conquistador" or Jack Bruce's gutsy "Sunshine of Your Love", not so dandy when it's Simon Kirke revisiting the jukebox fave "Alright Now" or Peter Frampton's reprise of his Wayne's World-revived double live album (an

interminable "Do You Feel Like We Do" complete with voice-box trickery - no thanks!).

But what of Ringo, after all, the main Starr attraction of the event? His approach bordered on the nonchalant at times, though he shone on "Boys" and "I Wanna Be Your Man", double-hitting the snare drum as in the old Cavern days.

The former Fab Four drummer also reclaimed "Love Me Do", the original Beatles single he didn't play on at the time (well, George Martin let him shake a tambourine). Mind you, even with the help of his percussion sidekick Kirke, Starr couldn't re-create Ginger Baker's powerhouse style on the old Cream hits fronted by Bruce (son Zak Starkey, no slouch on the drums, was sorely missed).

Always a trouper, Ringo strutted his stuff like a regular Cilla Black and showed his sense of humour by

introducing the career-nadir of "La De Da" as being "number one in Poland". Ringo Starr, the stand-up comic, may yet pull in the crowds.

The somewhat schizophrenic nature of the evening found its perfect illustration when Gary Brooker had to follow the corny sing-along "Yellow Submarine", in which Starr had wowed the crowd with his *Thomas the Tank Engine* jokey voice. The Procol Harum veteran gamely picked "another boating song", his solo rendition of "A Salty Dog" proved sublime, British stiff upper lip to the last. Still, a final salvo of Cream's old chestnut "White Room", the seminal, era-defining "Whiter Shade of Pale" and a nostalgic "Photograph" rounded things off nicely before the obligatory, and more appropriate than ever, "With a Little Help From My Friends".

Without his heavy friends, Ringo Starr wouldn't have much sparkle.



Ringo Starr: better as a stand-up comic?

Andrew Buurman

A tableau vivant of the Irish past

THE BEST way of loving a country like this, declares the uncle towards the end of *Tarry Flynn*, is from a range of at least 300 miles. Adapted from Patrick Kavanagh's autobiographical novel, Conall Morrison's Abbey Theatre production conjures up just the right humorous blend of affection and exasperation in the small-minded, priest-ridden, virgin-stuffed world of County Cavan in the mid-Thirties. The eponymous young farmer-poet loves the district yet longs to escape from it. If it is as beautiful as he imagines, argues the uncle, he can take it with him in his mind and write about it. Paying your deepest duties to home may, for a writer, involve achieving a safe distance away from it.

It is a familiar story but one that is presented with zest by a large, leaping, tumbling, animal-impersonating cast. No

THEATRE

TARRY FLYNN
LYTTLETON THEATRE,
LONDON

fewer than 39 of them animate a witty mindscape design by Francis O'Connor where bits of bikes and farm implements poke absurdly through the lofty walls and doors fly open to reveal camp tableaux vivants of oppressive Catholic saints, and where the set can cheekily suck back into itself a narrow bachelor bed to prevent the owner getting his hands on the fantasy female sprawled upon it.

At the start, with the synchronised scything movements of the farm labourers and their choreographed twirlings and stampings, you are strongly reminded of the peasants in *Martin Guerre*. On fact, the creative team of Morrison and his movement di-

rector, David Bolger, is the one that has been picked to stage yet another revision of the troubled Schöenberg-Bouill musical, scheduled to open at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in November. Elsewhere, it's Complicité who are recalled, as you watch actors crouch and twist their bodies into the shape of farmyard creatures - a newborn calf teetering around on ballet pointes; a horse seemingly snorting in sarcastic response to Tarry's clumsy overtures to girls; and a mutt hurtling, fangs bared, towards the leg of anyone resembling a priest.

Interfering anti-intellectuals, clerics, though, are only one of the problems facing James Kennedy's attractively awkward and aspiring Tarry. Among the others are his overbearing mother, splendidly portrayed by Pauline Flannagan; his aggressively unmarriageable sisters; a

dangerous feud; a bad land purchase; and a girl blaming him for her condition.

Since the play shows him pushed to a point where escape seems a better solution than simply trying to rise above it all, it never develops much dramatic drive. But, bathed in the purple blues and greens of Nick McCall's lovely lighting, and with a design dominated by an undulating downward sweep of turf, it is staged in a way that helps one to understand Tarry's belief, baffling to his pious mother (whose corns he happens to be paring at the time of stating it) that "the holy spirit is in the fields".

If the production is ingratiating at times, at least the piece is free of the cynicism and Post-modern knowingness in the plays, also set in the Irish past, of Martin McDonagh.

PAUL TAYLOR

Over the top in all scales

CLASSICAL

THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL
GLOUCESTER

Hickox, making his first assault on the Grail a dream of a performance. The audience's hushed silence could have been cut with a knife.

And all this only the night after David Briggs - a Francophile to put it mildly - had delivered a Berlioz *Damnation of Faust* to knock you off your seats (Opie terrific as Mephisto, and the baritone Roderick Williams adding a bouncy Brander to his exquisite solo recitals and appearances elsewhere). Bach's B minor Mass the evening before was an equal joy - thanks chiefly to Nick Kennedy and Robin Blaze: no need to jet in Andreas Scholl - we already have our own.

Briggs is still new to the game; his conducting is immensely promising (witness a

cracking *Carnaval Romain* and thrilling *La Mer*), but too self-conscious; he has yet to learn to nurse a large chorus. But it was undeniably his week; as if to prove it, fine recitalist that he is, he preface Friday's *Parsifal* by delivering the entire Mahler Fifth Symphony in his own new transcription for organ, and truly magnificent in the brilliant colourings of the Gloucester organ.

Howard Ferguson was the oldie of the festival: he may be 90, but he looks and sounds 30, and his lovely full choral setting of the medieval *The Dream of the Rood* sounds as gorgeous and lovely as ever. (Why doesn't everybody do it, for gawd's sake?) Michael Hurd, 70 in December and a Gloucestershire lad heart and soul, was the not-quite-so-oldie. His *Concerto da Camera* for oboe is a small gem; *Shore Leave*, his cycle of settings of Charles Cauley ("See the noon her yellow landau

draws against the fainting sky": so who's been pilfering *The Merchant of Venice*?), Christian Wilson trusted with Mahler: Christopher Boodle delivered a spicy new trumpet sonata; but highlight among the youngsters was Ian Venables' riveting, moody *Piano Quintet*, which lends a new late 20th century dimension to the English pastoral. If anyone deserves a clutch of West Midlands Arts commissions, this promising young Worcester composer does.

And I almost forgot to mention Parry. True to form Gloucester gave us the lot - chamber, choral, keyboard, his Joachim-like *Overture to Unwritten Tragedy*, the recently rediscovered, expensive *Piano Concerto*, plus a clutch of new books and reissues.

The whole mind-boggling enterprise was framed by *Bliss Fair of Sirens and I was Glad*. A humdinger of a week.
RODERIC DUNNETT

Women

NETWORK

Computer games have moved on from their teenage beginnings. But the British still create the best ideas. By Paul Smith

From bedroom to boardroom

Success as a games developer seems to be measured in the number of Ferraris in your front drive. And, for a select few developers, when it comes to Ferrari-counting, well, it's a good thing they've got toes as well. But something else connects these multimillionaires: they are almost all British.

There is something about British developers that has brought them world-wide success in a highly competitive, global industry. Indeed, the games pop charts are currently headed by a British game, Colin McRae Rally by Codemasters, a company started by Richard and David Darling back in 1986.

Yet now is a crucial point for the British industry as it enters its third stage of development. Having started with a slew of youths spending too much time with their computers and then suddenly making fortunes as a result, the industry went through a period of rapid consolidation and corporatisation. Now, however, there's a backlash, as those same creative minds that shaped the industry find that they have the power, and the resources, to go back to their roots. However, today's spotty youths should not necessarily expect that their slavish devotion to games will bring them the same rewards.

The British games boom began in the early Eighties when Atari, BBC Micros and Sinclair ZXs were starting to find their way into boys' bedrooms, distracting them from such pursuits as outdoor sports and human interaction. These proto-PCs were not powerful and they were not sophisticated, but that was part of their allure. A bit of application and a lot of time could force them to do fairly impressive feats. And the skills learnt were turned, inevitably perhaps, into producing games. As Paul Topping, marketing manager of Rebellion, a leading British games developer, puts it: "We are the Sinclair generation."

Initially these games were either for personal edification or for sharing with friends, but the ability to connect computers to each other and share data between them - using modems, even though modems were slow and expensive - meant that games started to proliferate. It was a simple if time-consuming process to send your games electronically to friends, who would then send them on to their friends. In the early Eighties, this was the main way games were distributed, and those taking this route (which soon became a completely new distribution channel in itself) positioned themselves for the wave that was to follow - a wave that now sees a blockbuster game release outsell a blockbuster studio film.

And, all this time, the Americans were nowhere to be seen. The reason, ironically, is that the technology available in the US was too sophisticated. Mike Hayward, managing director of CyberLife Technologies, the producers of Creatures, explains: "The Commodore Amiga and Atari ST were released here (in the UK) with an operating system that people could get their hands on, so there was more of a culture of people programming on that type of machine. In America, the big boom came with the PC. Before that, it was



Above: 'Mortal Kombat', the film from the game that made a fortune for Fergus McGovern, and is still alive and kicking. Below left: the 'kid millionaire' Darling brothers. Below right: the successful games developer Peter Molyneux



The British games boom began in the early Eighties when Atari, BBC Micros and Sinclair ZXs were starting to find their way into boys' bedrooms, distracting them from such pursuits as outdoor sports and human interaction



Atari and Nintendo (non-programmable) games consoles, so you didn't have people in the home who were programming."

Indeed, most countries with a healthy games developer community today share this feature. "If you look at any European country that had any installed base of Amigas, there's a culture of programming," says Hayward. "Sweden, Holland - although they're mostly hackers - France and others. But the bulk of the talent was here."

Simple times also required simple economics. As a nascent industry supplying relatively unsophisticated consumers who used relatively crude hardware, not much

was needed, and many of today's market leaders remember, more or less fondly, those bedroom beginnings. Hayward "started in 1987 and we really did have people working in garages". Jason Kingsley, who set up Rebellion with his brother, recalls that it was then "a damp basement". Peter Molyneux, one of the superstars of games developers, remembers: "I was in a grungy little office working on Amiga held together with shoestrings and the whole company was financed on my credit card."

The capital costs were equally daunting. "All you needed," recalls Hayward, "was to buy four people Amigas with hard disks and a copy

of Deluxe Paint each, which was £50." In those days, it took six to nine months to create a title and it could probably be brought to market for £15,000 to £20,000.

Then the console phenomenon struck. In 1989, Sega and Nintendo arrived on a wave of such stupendous success that even the City took notice of their profits of around \$1bn on turnovers of \$3bn.

The City also noticed that people such as Molyneux, Fergus McGovern, the creator of Mortal Kombat, and the Darling brothers were kid millionaires. The Darlings are a typical example. Starting off in their bedroom as teenagers, they had an early success with BMX Simulator

in 1987 but made a lot of money, £2.2m or so, by standing up to the might of Nintendo when it sued them over their Game Genie program. They now run a £20m organisation based in Southam, Warwickshire, in an office on their parents' farm. Now that they've made the Sunday Times 500 Richest People list, they've become somewhat embarrassed about their wealth, hiding away from the press.

Suddenly, everyone saw that this was a market with potential, and big business got involved. Sony, Electronic Arts, Psygnosis and (mostly American) venture capitalists were keen to bring the industry into its second, mature phase. A lot of small

bedroom companies were bought up by the big boys until, as Molyneux puts it, "three or four years ago, it was hard to think of any independent studios left". Instead, what you had were these large studios of 100 or more people.

As the industry matured, so did its market, not so much in terms of the consumers' age - they remain teenage boys - but in the hardware that they were using. Suddenly an Amiga and a painting package were not enough. Part of this was driven by the raw processing capability of the now-prevalent PC, but part was the distribution medium: the CD-ROM was flourishing but designers felt obliged to fill it up.

This meant designing ever more complex games, with detailed artwork. But it also meant CD-quality sound, needing expensive studio time and technicians. Each developer on the team can probably expect to work with a Silicon Graphics workstation costing £30,000 to £40,000, plus expensive maintenance. Teams have swelled now to start at about eight people and have been known to go up to 100.

A typical game can cost upwards of £1m and take around two years to develop. At the same time, the business has, like its film counterpart, become largely hit-driven: at this summer's E3 trade show in Atlanta, there were some 2,500 new titles being pumped around. Of those, estimates Molyneux, no more than three or four will make big money.

Now, however, the whole industry is moving into a third, counter-revolutionary phase. Many of the creative geniuses who masterminded hugely successful titles have suddenly realised that they do not enjoy the structured corporate world, spending all day in interminable meetings. The last year or so has seen many key players leaving the large studios and returning to their roots in small companies. Molyneux has left Bullfrog, which he sold to Electronic Arts, to form Lionhead Studios; others have followed. In Guildford alone there are five start-ups staffed by creative developers from Bullfrog.

Mike Diskett, managing director of one of these companies, Mucky Foot, explains: "They [the big corporates] want predictability. They want game development to be like Microsoft developing an operating system, like software engineering."

"They solve problems of slippage by making the teams bigger. That's what we wanted to get away from." This idea of "slippage", where release dates are constantly pushed further and further away, as unforeseen difficulties or troublesome bugs eat up development time, is a significant industry problem.

Games will always "slip", Diskett says, even when you schedule for the fact that games will always slip. Unfortunately, this does not mean that bedroom games players can hope to follow so easily in their heroes' footsteps. It is a risky, high-cost operation and you must have industry experience, preferably as a creative lead on a successful title, somewhere on your team.

"You need deep pockets," says Steve Cheese, of the European Leisure Software Producers Association. "That's good and bad. The reason that the UK has been so successful is our creative side, which hasn't been stifled by big corporations. In the US, it's just sequels. I mean how many Quake clones are there? Whereas here we are coming up with innovative stuff, like Dungeon Keeper from Bullfrog."

"The third stage is only for those who've been in the industry a long time. They love to create games... they do not want to work for big corporations, and they've got to the stage where they can do that."

Of course, this staff haemorrhaging can put the strain on the company left behind. "Bullfrog," says Molyneux, "is in a period of transition... whatever that means."

That means, I say, that he left and took all the Ferraris. He just laughs.

Women reap rewards but prospects look grim

ONE OF the best parties of the summer season in Silicon Valley must be the annual knees-up of the Women in Technology Association, where beautiful Pamela Anderson lookalikes get together to celebrate their love for technology and their wise career choice. This year, some 5,000 women programmers and computer scientists gathered in San Jose, California, to celebrate being in the right place at the right time.

They had good reason to break open the bubbly and toast their good fortune, since the past year has seen huge increases in salaries in the computing industry. Women have not only benefited from these larger pay packets, but have also been getting involved in leading-edge projects, managing larger teams and, in short, breaking all the ceilings that were left from the old macho days of computing.

A number of Silicon Goddesses, as they are called

there - have joined the ranks of IT directors, and there has also been an increase in the number of women professors employed in computer science departments. So have we managed to complete the transition from Fifties housewives into Nineties engineers? Hardly, as Tracy Camp, an assistant professor of computer science from the University of Alabama, found in her recent study of trends concerning the uptake of computer science students.

Today's female successes in information technology were part of the peak intake of women computer science students in the early Eighties, when almost 40 per cent of entrants were women. Ten years later, Camp found that female intake had dwindled to around 35 per cent. She attributes the drop to women having less experience playing computer games as children, gender discrimination, the long hours programmers are required to work, the lack of role

models and the antisocial image of the typical computer hacker.

This picture is even more worrying in the UK, where the last few years have seen the intake of female computer science students drop to less than 5 per cent, from 33 per cent a decade ago. So where have we gone wrong? The reasons Tracy Camp lists in her study are no doubt contributing to the problem. However, from reading the biographies of great female computer scientists or programmers such as Ada Lovelace and Grace Hooper (who published the first paper on compilers), and from chatting to the current Silicon Goddesses both here and in the US, it is clear that they have one thing in common. Someone inspired them at a very young age to learn to love mathematics.

Perhaps the biggest failure of our education system is that it allows girls to drop the subject at the tender age of 14. Talking to some of the key female



EVA PASCOE
Silicon Goddesses have one thing in common - someone inspired them at a very young age to learn to love maths

players in Silicon Valley, I heard the same story: of women being encouraged by their parents to continue studying mathematics. Kathy Richards, of Digital Equipment Corporation, told of how her father encouraged her

to stick with the subject when she was 15 despite her desire to be a ballet dancer. She took his advice and studied maths at Yale University (following in Grace Hooper's footsteps) and she has never looked back.

Mathematics are the cornerstone of computing careers, and young girls should be encouraged, be it by mild persuasion or bribery, to carry on with the subject at least until university age. Then they may want to take the traditional option and study for an arts or business degree, but at least they will have the choice of taking up computing. Someone who hasn't seen a maths book since the age of 14 does not have that choice any more. Those who have encouraging parents or inspiring maths teachers are in a better position to seek a computing career that pays well, is creative and provides the opportunity to work with nice, mild men (male computer scientists are not sexist, as

Tracy Camp suggests in her study; in fact, they tend to be creative characters who in general make wonderful friends and colleagues).

So how do you help your little girl to become a Grace Hooper of the 21st century? Thankfully, in the Internet era this is a lot easier than before. Start her on <http://www.horsewhisperer.co.uk> where she can see the beautiful trailer for the chic-flick of the year. Then get her to create a website for her own horse, cat, or pop idol. Seeing her own pictures being published to the world and receiving some e-mails as a result usually does the trick. Before you know it, she will be buying JavaScript for Dummies to work out how to do rollovers on her new, animal-oriented website.

Carry on until she is 18, and then call Janet Stack from Women Into Computing to help her get in touch with the rest of the Web crazy female gang (<http://www.wic-hg.org>). But

that is assuming you have spent the first 18 years of her life holding her hand through homework on non-Euclidean geometry and advanced algebra. That is what helped Grace Hooper and many other women to become key computer industry players.

It is you, the parents, who can help get more women into computing. So if your little girl wants to be a computer scientist, start early; either sort her out with an Internet connection or drag her to your local cybercafe at least once a week to join other girls playing in cyberspace. Then a good computing degree from somewhere like Imperial or University College London should be followed by a PhD from, say, Stanford University, and voila, she'll be on route to her first scientific breakthrough (and possibly first £1m). You hold the key to her career; make sure she has all the options.

eva@mevex.com

A new survey reveals which firms engender the greatest loyalty in their customers – and why. By David Fox

Have you ever been unfaithful to a PC supplier?

THE IDEA of someone being loyal to a grey box that sits in a corner and hums is faintly ludicrous. After all, there is so little difference between computers that any purchasing decision is purely down to price and specification. Right?

Wrong. Brand loyalty may not be as fully developed in the computer market as in, say, the car market, where a mediocre all-rounder (the Escort) has been the best-seller for years mainly owing to consumer loyalty to Ford; but some PC-owners are a lot more likely to buy again from the same maker than others. This has been borne out in many surveys, where the same names (Gateway, Dell and, in the UK, Dan) top the lists of manufacturers whose computers users would buy again. Therefore, these were my short list of manufacturers when it came to buy a replacement for a three-year-old Gateway 90MHz Pentium machine whose only fault was to be old.

It had worked perfectly, with only the occasional software glitch, which, when we couldn't correct it, was sorted out by Gateway's help line – even one Boxing Day. It didn't, however, like it when we installed a SCSI card for a scanner. Reinstalling Windows was recommended. Not being brave enough, I did any scanning on an Apple Mac, which copes better with added hardware.

If Windows PCs were a little less likely to throw a wobble in the face of radical software upgrades (especially from Microsoft), we'd probably just have installed Internet Explorer 4 and/or Windows 98. As it is, we've never even got round to upgrading from Windows 3.11 to 95. Buying a new PC seemed easier.

For a high-spec, 400MHz Pentium II, Dell quoted about £100 less than Gateway. Dan didn't manage to quote at all. Each time we rang, their salespeople were too busy. They said they'd ring back. We waited. We rang them back. They said they had returned our call. We'd probably have noticed if they had. No sale.

This may be an exception. Perhaps they need more salespeople. After all, in PC Magazine's annual survey recently on how consumers rate PC manufacturers, Dan was rated 4.33, where 5 means they will "definitely" repurchase from them; 4 is "likely" and 3 is "possibly". Dell came second with 4.08 and Gateway third with 3.59. Even the lowest-rated

manufacturer, AST, scored 3.22, which means "all the manufacturers rated in our survey are doing a pretty good job," according to Bob Kane, PC Magazine's editor-in-chief.

John Shephard, Gateway's general manager, believes that customer satisfaction surveys are dominated by the direct sales companies partly because "build-to-order means you don't have to shift the boxes that you build" (which results in buyers being sold PCs that are wrong for them). It also gives them a closer relationship with the user, which may mean that if they make a mistake, "the phone rings off the hook", but that gives them a chance to rectify it more quickly, too. One of the complaints Gateway heard most often was difficulty in setting the PC up when they received it. So, the firm colour-coded the cables, "which reduced support calls significantly and increased customer loyalty because it was easier to set up".

Despite the millions Gateway spends on advertising, Shephard says "positive word of mouth" is its biggest source of business, which is testimony to how important customer loyalty is. "Acquiring a customer the first time is five times more expensive than selling to a happy existing user, who then tells six to 10 others," he says.

PC Magazine's Bob Kane says there are several factors, besides price, which influence whether consumers buy from the same manufacturer again: service/support; a good mix of technology; and "whether they rate the brand highly or not". He believes that consumer satisfaction with Dan is based on its support. He cites the fact that it "assigns people a single support engineer, so you speak to the same person each time", which saves explaining your problem over and over again.

Certainly, for us, after-sales support was the priority. Although Dan ruled itself out, Dell has a good reputation here (especially for corporate buyers), but my wife, who uses the PC most, has been very happy with Gateway's help line, especially as it is a freephone number. Despite the extra expense and a longer wait for delivery, customer loyalty won out. We plumped for another Gateway.

PC Magazine's consumer survey is at <http://www.pcnet.co.uk/pemag/sandri1998/>



After all those grey suits, Apple users welcome the return of the creative Steve Jobs, pictured here cradling the new iMac

One bite of the Apple and they're hooked

OF ALL computer users, those with Macs are probably the most loyal. This is despite years of neglect by Apple, high prices and uncertainty over what disaster may happen next. Indeed, it was only this year that Apple was knocked off the top of one US consumer loyalty survey by Gateway (and a couple of others). Now that Apple has begun to turn itself around and repay some of that loyalty, perhaps it will regain its position next year.

The return of Steve Jobs, an interesting, creative character (however hard it may be to work for him), reflects the way Apple users see themselves better than the grey suits who ran the company (almost to the ground) over the last decade. The buzz around the new iMac and the power of the G3 Macs, as well as Apple's return to profitability,

is making Mac owners, like myself, even happier with their choice.

Unless you are a computer-games fan, there is little the Mac cannot do that a Windows PC can (and most of that can be run under Virtual PC or SoftWindows on the Mac). The Mac's ease of use may be legendary, but at least it's not a myth (unlike Windows, when something goes wrong).

Of course, the oft-embattled Mac user has to stick with Apple for his next computer because about the only other choice now left is to switch operating systems. But, even if Apple seems to have been determined, until recently, to shrug off the affection most of its customers feel for it, any complaints I may have about it are countered by the fact that the Mac so rarely stops me doing my job and is (relatively) easy

to correct when it does. Besides, Apple did at least know about the next century, so even my other, 11-year-old Mac won't stop working in the year 2000.

Of course, the Mac versus PC debate is not really comparing like for like. The kind of people who use Macs do so either because they don't so much want a computer as to do something with one, or are just into elegant technology regardless of cost. PC-buyers are usually more concerned with price (even if lots of independent studies show that Macs cost less to maintain and upgrade once you've bought them). For what most people want to do – word processing, the occasional spreadsheet, database use and accessing the Internet – software is not really an issue.

The attitude of the die-hard Mac

user is best revealed by the almost daily Evangelist e-mail newsletter, which demonstrates not only a great community spirit, but also the determination that being such a "small" (60-million-user) minority brings to maintaining its identity. In the same way that small men can be touchy about their height, so Mac owners can be defensive about their choice of computer. Buying a computer may be a commercial decision; buying a Mac is an emotional choice. At least now it no longer looks as if it will end in tears.

The Evangelist: <http://www.evangelist.maccaddict.com/> (which also tells you "Why Macs are better" and has many "Windows Daymares" to chortle over). To subscribe, you can also go to <http://www.lists.apple.com/evangelist.html>

Select a drive with care

CD-Rom drives are an international standard, but all drives are not the same. By Bob Kane

WITH ALL the talk about Digital Versatile Disk (DVD), and the promise that this high-capacity technology will bring to computer users, no one has paid much attention to the lowly CD-rom drive. A standard the world over, CD-rom drives have enabled multimedia functionality on the PC as well as providing a low-cost, relatively fast installation mechanism for today's multi-megabyte applications.

You may think all CD-rom drives are the same, save for their X factor, the number used to describe the spin speed of the drive, such as 24X or 32X. This month's PC Magazine examines 15 of the fastest CD-rom drives to discover that there are differences beyond the X factor. One is that, with rotational speeds up to 7,000rpm, the manufacturing quality of the disk you play in your CD-rom drive is very important. If a disk is not manufactured to sufficiently high standards, some of today's high-speed drives slow down in order to try and read the data. This results in erratic or reduced performance.

CPU time required for moving data from a CD-rom disk to memory was also found to be quite low, as long as direct memory access (DMA) support is enabled under Windows 95 for enhanced, integrated-drive electronics (EIDE) CD-rom drives. Most CD-rom drive manufacturers either didn't bother, or poorly documented how to enable this feature, and some even suggested that their drives didn't support DMA transfers. But all the drives in the survey supported DMA and performed better when DMA-enabled.

DMA was not an issue for small computer system interface (SCSI) drives as they have their own efficient protocol for transferring data from the disk to memory. However, the majority of PCs out there today don't have a SCSI connection.

PC Magazine also discovered that, depending upon when a drive was manufactured, its performance characteristics could vary dramatically. This is due to rolling production changes on the manufacturing line for the firmware that controls the drive operation.

PC Magazine chose the Philips 32X-Max PCA323CD as its Editor's Choice. Its respectable overall performance scores, reasonable CPU utilisation, ability easily to handle disks of varying manufacturing quality, and a one-year replacement swap-out warranty, all at a price of only £47 (ex-VAT), proved that all CD-Rom drives are not the same.

You can read the full report in the September issue of PC Magazine or at <http://www.pcmag.co.uk>

Microsoft anti-trust case delayed

BYTES
ANDY OLDFIELD

THE ANTI-TRUST case brought against Microsoft by the US Department of Justice and a coalition of American states, which was due to start on 8 September, has been postponed by Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson until 23 September, after both sides asked for a two-week delay.

This decision had looked inevitable following Judge Jackson's earlier ruling that depositions in the case should be made in public. Given the level of interest surrounding Bill Gates' making his deposition, the pre-trial examinations were temporarily suspended until media and public access protocols were worked out between both sides and the media. Microsoft appealed against that ruling and, last week, an appeals court opened the way for pre-trial testimony by Microsoft executives to go ahead in private. The appellate court did not find for either side, but refused to delay depositions.

SALES OF IMACS were strong in the first week that Apple's latest computer became available in the United States. Many stores

sold out in the first day and broke records for volume sales by up to 60 per cent.

"iMac has been the biggest computer launch we've seen in our history," said Jim Halpin, president of the superstore chain CompUSA. Initial small-scale surveys suggest that the machine is selling to a wider audience than just committed Mac fans. ComputerWare say that 13 per cent of their sales went to people replacing a Windows-based PC.

Market Metrics, a Californian market research company, said that 15 per cent of iMac purchasers were buying their first computer. The iMac is to go on sale in Japan on Saturday, with a European launch next month. In the UK, the machine will cost £399 – about £200 more than the equivalent price in the US. Apple says that shipping costs, VAT and localisation for the UK market account for the price difference.

INTEL TODAY launches the first Celeron processors with the previously omitted integrated high-speed cache memory. The Celeron A will overcome the poor

performance of its predecessors and bring them closer to the speed of Pentium II processors while costing about \$200 (£123) less.

The 300MHz and 333MHz Celerons are aimed at clawing back market share from fast, cheap chips, such as AMD's K6, which have outperformed Intel's low-cost offerings. Intel's market share in the fast-growing budget PC market sank to 35 per cent in June from 72 per cent a year ago, while AMD edged ahead to 51 per cent, according to the research firm PC Data.

NEWS SITE servers on the Web came under pressure last week, as record numbers of users sought to follow breaking news of President Clinton testifying before a federal grand jury about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky. US missile strikes against terrorist targets in Afghanistan and Sudan led to further demands on resources. Although last week was

news-heavy, part of the record activity on the sites is due to the Internet's growth as a news medium. "Every time there is a breaking news story, more people turn to the Internet to find out about it," said Loren Pomerantz, of MSNBC online. "People who didn't go to the Net find out that others did; then they go, and pretty soon the whole thing just snowballs."

News sites are increasing server capacity to match demand and streamlining content. MSNBC last week added three new servers after receiving a record 1.1 million unique users on Monday. Records also fell last week at CNN and ABCNews.com. "We reached maximum capacity," said CNN's Kerrin Roberts, after news broke about US missile action. "We stripped down the pages so there was only one image and the main headline being updated." MSNBC reduced graphics and removed its welcome page as well.

NETSCAPE COMMUNICATIONS reported a small third-quarter profit, and said its

two main business segments showed strong revenue growth. The former leader in the browser market said it earned \$88,000 (£54,000) in the third quarter, which, on a per share basis, meant that they broke even. Most analysts had been expecting a small loss.

"We are pleased with the results we posted for the quarter," said Jim Barksdale, Netscape president. "We're seeing strong momentum in both the enterprise software and Netcenter businesses." Netscape's revenues rose to \$150.2m (£92.3m) from \$136m (£83m) a year earlier. Revenues from enterprise software and services business grew 16 per cent to \$111.6m (£68.4m) in the quarter ended 30 April. Revenues from Netscape Netcenter rose 24 per cent to \$38.7m (£23.7m).

Last week, Netscape released its latest Communicator Internet software. Version 4.06 includes some of the upcoming 4.5 features, such as closer integration with its Netcenter portal site, but is largely a maintenance release with bug fixes for potential e-mail problems.

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We're talking telephone numbers – again

Phoneday was only three years ago, but more phone number changes are imminent. By Stephen Pritchard

IF IT looks as if we have been here before, it is because we have, and less than four years ago. In under a year's time, millions of UK telephone numbers will change again.

The event is the National Code and Number Change. The last time the numbering system underwent such a far-reaching overhaul was in 1995, on so-called Phoneday. Then, all ordinary phone numbers added an extra "1" to their codes – and the citizens of Bristol, Sheffield, Leeds, Leicester and Nottingham got completely new codes.

This time, people in London, Cardiff, Belfast, Portsmouth and Coventry will have to change; their new numbers will start with 02. For Londoners it will be the third new set of numbers in just over a decade.

Nor is that the whole story. Non-geographic numbers, including mobile phones, personal numbers and pagers, will change. So will some free-phone numbers and most local-rate national and premium-rate numbers. The exceptions are numbers issued since July last year, which already use the new codes.

The importance of the changes cannot be overestimated. Apart from millions of mobile phone and pager users, and people living in areas with new numbers, the change will affect anyone who holds contact databases or customer lists. It will affect companies that use free, reduced or national-rate numbers for sales or technical support – as many do in the computer industry.

It will affect Internet service providers, which use local-rate numbers to connect customers who dial in with modems. Organisations that have automatic computer links between offices which rely on modems or the ISDN network will also be affected, as will systems that use a caller's number to check their

identity – for example, when remote staff log on to an office computer. It will even affect fax software.

The reason is simple enough: we are running out of phone numbers. The telecommunications regulator Ofcom realised some time ago that some parts of the country, especially London, needed more numbers. The change will give 64 million numbers for London alone. An additional set of numbers, starting with 03, is reserved for future use should demand continue to grow.

At the same time, Ofcom decided to take the opportunity to change non-geographic numbers. In a move welcomed by consumer groups, the regulator placed "find me anywhere" numbers – mobiles, pagers, personal numbers – in a category starting with 07. Special rate numbers – free, local and national – will start with 08, and premium rate numbers, with 09. Ordinary users will have a much better idea of the sort of call, and therefore the cost, before they dial. The same cannot be said of the existing system.

The problems with the old numbering system were not news to the authorities. The key question is why the changes were not carried out on Phoneday, thereby saving considerable inconvenience and cost. The National Number Change office defends the decision, saying it would have caused too much confusion. "There was the need to establish the area codes beginning with 01," explains Andrew Lawford, a spokesman. "That freed up the other ranges. The second thing was the complexity of the message. If we had tried to migrate people to a whole range of different numbers, it would have been completely different."

Ofcom's documents show that the number of misdialled calls was a factor in the decision. For Phoneday,

the national network could cope with around 15 per cent of misdialled calls. The figure now is even lower. Too many wrong numbers would cause the system to seize up.

Demand for phone numbers comes from competition between operators, and because of growth in technology – mobiles, computer-telephone integration and the Internet. The old number system, designed long before the computer was invented, was never going to cope.

"It's a legacy of the previous structure," explains Andrew Lawford. "We are moving to a much more homogeneous system where everyone will have an eight-digit number, and a three-digit code."

Not everyone welcomes the prospect of longer numbers. The alternative, adopted in the US, is to overlay new numbers in busy areas. Large US cities can have more than one dialling code. Here, Ofcom found people wanted to keep local dialling.

The changes will be phased in over the next two years; some numbers, such as local-rate calls, could last somewhat longer. Even so, people who depend on the phone are being advised to start working on the changes as soon as possible.

"Consumers and businesses will be affected: anyone who uses the phone," cautions Steve Thorpe, member services manager at the Telephone Users Association. Smaller businesses face the greatest problems, as they do not have dedicated engineers to manage their systems. A smooth transition will depend on businesses publicising the changes, and giving help to their customers. Computer users who start looking at changes now should not lose out, but, as Steve Thorpe predicts, there could be more changes to come. "I don't honestly think this will be the end of it."

Machines for obscene wealth

MY TECHNOLOGY
BOOTHBY GRAFFOE



Has privatisation met its nemesis in Boothby Graffoe? Probably not...

Philip Meech

I LIKE telephones because they allow people I have never heard of to make huge sums of money. Take the man who runs BT. He just awarded himself a 41 per cent pay rise. Privatisation is wonderful. I have managed to narrow it down to four stages. 1. We own it. 2. They sell it. 3. We buy it. 4. They own it.

I have prepared my own assault against privatisation. It also has been narrowed down to four stages. 1. I pick up the telephone. 2. I call the chairman of BT. 3. I shout an obscenity. 4. I put the phone down.

Recently I was disturbed from my scribbling by a call from Toronto. It is Kevin. I ask what his favourite piece of technology is; he says it is an air filtration device to keep the atmosphere in his plastic bubble free from bacteria. I tell him he is biased because he has leukaemia.

Our conversation was disturbed by the call-waiting beep. It was my agent. Can I do an interview with someone from Ceefax? I question the outlook of people who spend their spare time reading Teletext pages. I am told that all publicity is good. I watched a bit of Ceefax to familiarise myself with the medium. I picked up the telephone. I called Ceefax. I shouted an obscenity. I put the telephone down.

Seconds later the telephone rang. It was someone from Ceefax. I had forgotten to press 141. I am asked if I just shouted something nasty down the phone. I pretend to be Lithuanian. The man from Ceefax says he knows who I am. I ask him if he would like to buy a goat. He hangs up.

Two days later I get a call from Kevin. The bone marrow transplant from his brother has taken. He tells me I was on Canadian television last night. I ask if it was a clip from Just For Laughs. No, he says, Ceefax.

Boothby Graffoe's stand-up show is at The Pleasance, Edinburgh (0131-556 6550) until 31 August.

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

It's time to de-junk those Web pages

ONE OF my chief gripes about most websites that I see on the Internet is the overabundance of unorganised links strewn about the page. You've probably seen sites with long lists of links that stretch off the window. They often add visual noise to the design and waste precious screen space without really assisting with navigation.

Net-surfers rarely take the time to read an entire Web page. Instead, they scan across the screen for relevant information. Yet, human beings can process only so much information at a time. With cluttered Web pages, visitors must wade through dozens or hundreds of links in order to find that one path to the information they desire.

Anything designers can do to aid the visitor's ability to scan through a page (organising links in lists and showing the lists only when the visitor needs them) will improve the usability of their website.

Pop-down menus have been a favourite Graphic User Interface (GUI) device for years. These menus appear as a single word at the top of your window or screen that, when pressed, will display a list of further options to choose from. For instance, under File you may find Save, Close and Print. We can in fact set up a similar scheme on a Web page using frames, a bit of JavaScript and a simple form. First, we set up a frames document with a thin frame stretching across

WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE

Don't faze your Web site-visitor with a clutter of useless information. Instead, draw up some easy-to-surf menus. Here's how

the top of the window that will hold our menu(s), and then a larger frame underneath to display our content:

```
<HTML>
<FRAMESET
ROWS="30,*">
<FRAME
SRC="menu.html">
<FRAME
SRC="option1.html"
NAME="content">
</FRAMESET>
</HTML>
```

Next, we need to create our menu file:

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<SCRIPT
LANGUAGE="JavaScript">
function MakeArray()
```

```
{this.length =
MakeArray.arguments.
length;
for (var i = 0; i
<this.length; i++);
this[i+1] =
MakeArray.arguments[i] }
```

```
var menuUrl = new
MakeArray ("
"option1.html",
"option2.html",
"option3.html");
```

```
function menuSelect(form)
{ i =
form.menu.selectedIndex;
if (i == 0) return;
else {
parent.content.open(menu
Url[i+1], "content"); } }
</SCRIPT>
</HEAD>
<BODY
BGCOLOR="#000000">
```

```
<CENTER>
<FORM>
<SELECT NAME="menu"
SIZE="1"
onChange="menuSelect
(this.form)">
<OPTION>
SELECT AN OPTION
```

```
<OPTION>Option 1
<OPTION>Option 2
<OPTION>Option 3
</SELECT>
</FORM>
</CENTER>
</BODY>
</HTML>
```

Set up an array called menuURL that holds the URLs (either absolute or local) corresponding to the options in our list. The first of these will be blank, because the first option in our menu is the instruction for what to do (ie, "Select an option") and not an option itself.

Next, add a function called menuSelect() that will swap the pages in our content frame depending on the menu option selected.

Finally, in the body of our HTML document, set up the pop-down menu called Menu. Notice that in the select tag the onChange event handler has been added. This will run the menuSelect() function whenever the menu is changed by the visitor.

There is one severe drawback to this method: you cannot exactly control the appearance or size of the menu. Instead, this will depend on the computer that the visitor is using, and even at their best these menus are not terribly attractive. Still, pop-down menus can save a lot of space and cut down drastically on screen clutter, and a savvy designer should have no problem integrating them into his or her design.

If you have problems with the code presented here, or want to see it working, check out:

<http://www.webbedenviro.nmets.com/examples/33.html>

Also, if you want to see this technic working out in the wild, check out the remote control I created using this menu at:

<http://english.itu.edu/karos/3.1>

E-mail comments or queries to Jason Cranford Teague at: indy_webdesign@mind.spring.com



BT's Highway connects you to the internet four times faster than a modem.

Every internet user knows all about the World Wide Wait. Unless you're one of the few with a digital ISDN line, you've been confined to 28.8 or, if you're lucky, 56 Kb per second.

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other at a still-impressive 64Kb per second.

BT Highway will be available from September 15th. Visit our web site at www.highway.bt.com, and find out how you could soon avoid the wait.

BT

High-tech angels over Edinburgh



How I took the opportunity to display the power of digital images. By **Hannah Gal**

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY has transformed not only the way art is produced, but also the way it is viewed and exhibited. The old rules of print, original and copy are gone and, thanks to the Internet's global powers, we are no longer bound by gallery wall space and layout. A digital image can be displayed on a computer or video screen with no restrictions on time, size or place.

That was precisely the thinking behind Adobe Systems' involvement with the Edinburgh Festival. In association with the Premiere Digital Film Festival 1.0, it is showing a series of digitally produced work by a variety of leading creative groups and artists at this year's inaugural Festival Revue.

This multimedia showcase for the performing arts, visual arts, music, film and video is presented on two large (15m-wide) video screens placed at the heart of the festival in

the Ross Open Air Amphitheatre, in Princes Street Gardens. Using cable and Internet transmission, it also takes the Edinburgh Festival imagery to the rest of the world.

For Adobe, this was an opportunity to share the fruits of art packages such as Photoshop, After Effects and Premiere with the world, in what its marketing director, Ricky Liveridge, calls "the most innovative work currently being produced by up-and-coming young digital designers and film producers". The Edinburgh public benefits from a free event that projects artistic works in the open air, away from the contrived environment of a gallery.

For a participating digital artist such as myself, this was a chance to exhibit on a massive scale and reach unsuspecting festival viewers. It was also a unique opportunity to

spread the word of digital art, and educate people whose perception of modern creativity is somewhat detached from real life and computer technology. I saw the huge screen as the perfect instrument to convey the previously unimaginable fusion of painting, photography, animation and film that is now a working reality. This is where my three Edinburgh minutes come in.

Concentrating on the creative process itself, Adobe asked me to produce "an image with a difference". The idea was to create a step-by-step guide to the creation of the image, recording as many stages as possible. I ended up with more than 600 steps. This great number of steps later allowed the creation of a full animation film chronicling the interrupted evolutionary journey of the image. Although only three minutes

long, the film needed to be "eventful", and even surprising in parts, to keep the Edinburgh festival crowds occupied. The huge screen meant that attention to detail was the key.

Working on a Mac using Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects and MetaCreations' Painter, I saved each and every effect, filter or scan applied. Every brush stroke needed to be stopped a half, third or tenth of the way, and saved as a new step. To my system's relief, the required file size was a tiny 768 by 568 pixels, abiding by the video screen format.

My personal theme for the image was angels, and it was important to take advantage of any methods and materials I saw fit - analogue or digital. Drawing, oil paints, traditional and digital photography were all thrown into the melting-pot that is Photoshop. I started off with a scan

of a black-and-white print and ended up with a colourful scene showing angels guarding a newborn baby.

For the creation of the angels, I opted for a fair-haired girl as the inspiration and photographed her in colour. Using normal negative film, and with the angelic flight pose in mind, I chose a dancer who was photographed in many "heavenly" positions. The resulting prints were scanned into Photoshop, and angel wings drawn and painted.

The angels were further manipulated in the same application, the file saved and opened in Painter. There, I used the Image Hose (a Painter feature that lets you spray an image endless times) for the rocky base, using the stone nozzle. The same tool was used for the clouds, using the cloud nozzle. For a richer, more colourful canvas,

flowers were added from yet another digital source, a royalty-free disk.

The collage I ended up with consisted of a staggering 58 Photoshop layers, keeping each and every flower, angel, pair of wings, cloud and black-and-white figures separate. Looking at the final image, I felt that the angels should be watching over the most precious and needy of protection. I scanned in an original B&W print of a baby and, in Photoshop, placed it in the protecting motherly arms of the main angel.

The many hundreds of JPEG files were put together into an animation film detailing the creative process from start to finish. Adobe After Effects and Premiere added motion and moving effects to the film. To complete the picture, and enhance the digital experience further, an original music score was com-

missioned to accompany the imagery. Further illustrating "digital power", the music too was produced on a Mac using Cubase VST without a recording studio in sight. Instruments and voices were recorded directly on to the computer. Footage of the artist's work was shot with a digital video-camera and the Fast video-editing software put documentary, creative footage and music together.

The final film is part of Adobe's half-hour showcase, projecting films daily for the duration of the festival. It presents the computer as a great conductor, with the power to fuse not only past and present art, but also different practices altogether. It brings together a massive orchestra of painting, design, illustration and photography, playing in harmony with music, animation and film.

The Festival Revue website is at <http://www.festivalrevenue.com>

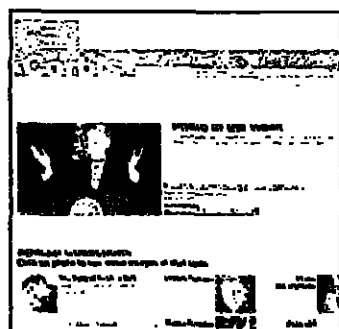
WEBSITES

BILL PANNIFER

Health, etiquette, music and the camera eye

Lifesaver
<http://www.lifesaver.co.uk/lifesaver.html>

After sites warning about drink and drugs, the latest Shockwave Flashy production from the Health Education Authority turns its attention to young smokers. In some ways, the approach is quite traditional: uncompromising close-ups of affected heart and lungs, fearful statistics, sometimes rather vaguely sourced, but also spinnable in positive directions: if, every day, 300 people die from smoking, another 1,000 give it up for good in the same period. Interesting facts - cigarette smoke includes formaldehyde and ammonia, as well as the usual suspects - and little animations, both twee and sinister: viewers can move an X-ray scanner the length of a human form to see various cancers and diseases outlined for each region of the body. An interactive game, Finger Fiddler, is meant to keep habitual hands otherwise occupied, but perhaps the best idea here is the chance



to "commit to quit" online, and subsequently receive supportive personal e-mails at key points in the giving-up process.

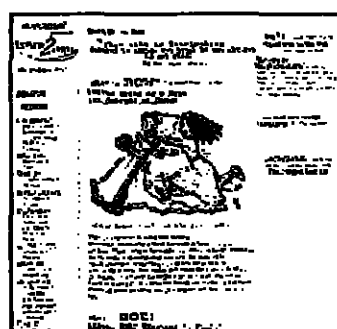
Learn2.com

<http://www.learn2.com/index.html>
Perhaps also a lifesaver, but certainly a face-saver: this invaluable site offers crash courses in practical and social skills. There are three pages here on "How to Boil An Egg", including such detail as the effects of altitude change on cooking time. Other "2torials" are designed to fend off social embarrassment (how to lay the

table for a dinner party), practical disaster (how to change nappies), and domestic technofear (how to connect that external SCSI drive). Each little course comes with an estimate of the time needed to work through it - half an hour for an introduction to wine - and can be printed out for ease of reference. A showcase for a Californian multimedia company, this resource has scored highly in several of those "useful site" rankings, and will come in handy for anyone who needs to write a speech. Or darn a sock. Much of the wisdom is heavily American (how to keep food supplies away from marauding bears while hiking in the back country), but there are also meticulous instructions on how to make a perfect cuppa.

CCTV Surveillance Regulation Campaign

<http://www.spy.org.uk/>
Ironically, this site has itself come under digital surveillance of a kind: users of Cyber Patrol, one of those Web censor

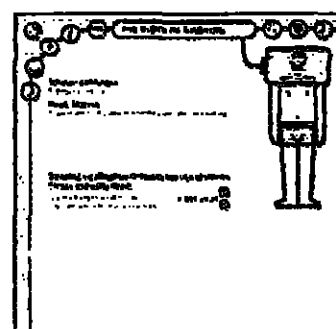


programs, have found the site "blocked" on the grounds of its (non-existent) sexual content. The victims suggest that this may be libellous: the site itself is distinctly unerotic. But the frame-based, largely textual clutter does ask important and overdue questions about the accountability, or otherwise, of CCTV camera systems, neural network facial recognition, and other means of monitoring the public. The issue is increasingly urgent, given advances in high-definition, remote-sensing and targetable cameras, and new potential abuses implied by

webcam technology. Big Brother is rather relentlessly invoked, but there are other concerns - are banks of possibly unattended monitors being used as substitutes for expenditure on policing? Other discussions are on the use of digital images as evidence, the selling on of CCTV material to commercial concerns, and the inadequacy of current data protection law in this sector. Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean they're not out to video you.

Music Replay

<http://www.musicreplay.com/>
A new dawn for struggling rock'n'rollers, or the musical equivalent of vanity publishing? Unsigned bands seeking their first break may be tempted to take part in this UK-based site which, come September, plans to present streamed video and audio tracks by new artists seeking exposure. The "channel" will be available as a continuous output, or with songs selectable by artist or genre. Three months on the site will cost the



performer £250; listening and viewing will be free, but so far the operation has the air of a business rather than an entertainment site, complete with online contract all ready for printing out. A handful of hopefuls are already present in audio form - power popsters, sensitive singer-songwriters, some Canadian soul, and a Franco-American New Age pianist.

Corbis Picture Experience

<http://www.corbis.com/>
<http://www.altavista.digital.com/>
Bill Gates unlocks his image-

board and distributes it free to the public in this new venture from the picture database Corbis, in association with Altavista. The generosity is limited - the shots are in the form of online "postcards", and are restricted to 500,000 of the 23 million pictures stashed away for paying, usually professional, customers. The innovation here is the search facility - typing in the required subject or topic can reveal hundreds of thumbnail possibilities, among them Corbis favourites such as Albert Einstein pulling faces, the Hindenburg explosion, and the Mona Lisa. Refreshingly, a search for "Monica Lewinsky" reveals nothing whatsoever. As always, the recipient is notified by e-mail and must visit a specific URL to collect their greeting. Other consumer utilities, including download and purchase options, will follow.

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NEW FILMS

LE BOSSU (15)

Director: Philippe de Broca
Starring: Daniel Auteuil, Fabrice Luchini, Vincent Perez, Marie Gillain
Sumptuous swashbucklers are fast becoming French cinema's stock-in-trade. This effort doesn't break much new ground, but is acted and shot with such magnificent bravado that its lack of originality is never a problem.

Fabrice Luchini makes a supremely despicable villain. Vincent Perez leaps lither and thither like a latter-day Douglas Fairbanks, while Daniel Auteuil's character seems like a cross between Cyrano and D'Artagnan.

He tends the abandoned young baby who soon blossoms into the beautiful Armore (Marie Gillain). Who cares about the clichés when the storytelling is so vivid?

Curzon Mayfair, Richmond Filmhouse

GADJO DILO (15)

Director: Tony Gatlif
Starring: Romain Duris, Rona Hartner, Izidor Serban
Stephane (Romain Duris), a young Parisian, tramps down a long, icy road, somewhere in rural Romania, on a quest for Nora Luca, the gypsy singer whose music he discovered through his father. After a drunken night with Izidor, an old man he meets crying and cursing in the snow, Stephane learns gradually about the habits, superstitions and, above all, the music of his gypsy hosts. There is a warmth and humour to the storytelling, and an integrity that pushes this film way beyond being mere sentimental traveltogue.

Renoir

THE LIFE OF STUFF (U)

Director: Simon Donald
Starring: Ewan Bremner, Ciaran Hinds, Jason Fleming, Gina McKee
A profoundly depressing Glasgow gangland drama. The performances and direction are pitched at such an overwrought level from the

very first scene that the film does not have anywhere to go.

The claustrophobic settings (almost the entire story takes place in a deserted warehouse) do not help at all. Nor does the melodramatic sub-John Barry music. Ewan Bremner and Gina McKee do their best as two hostages trapped in the basement, but the shock tactics (including various explosions, tortures, ferocious bloodlettings etc) do little but leave the viewer numb.

NFT

METROLAND (18)

Director: Philip Saville
Starring: Christian Bale, Ewan McGregor
In this suburban morality tale, Chris (Christian Bale) is festering somewhere in the commuter belt, playing happy families, when his old friend Tony (Lee Ross) thinks that he ought to be out having fun. Most of the film is set in the 1970s, but the period is not reconstructed with any great verve. There is plenty that is likeable - the late-1960s Paris interlude, in which Chris acts up as a Left Bank boulevardier, is very endearing. But back on home soil, the storytelling is less assured, and on the whole, Saville displays a dispiriting lack of ambition.

Metro, Odeon Kensington, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

THE X-FILES (15)

Director: Rob Bowman
Starring: David Duchovny, Gillian Anderson
See The Independent Recommends, right.
ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

Geoffrey McNabb and Ryan Gilbey

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Film Ryan Gilbey



FANS OF The X-Files television series have been heard to complain that the show's itinerant approach to conspiracy theories had taken some of the lustre out of the subject. In which case, the film version isn't likely to offer any compensation. But it looks splendid on the big screen. David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson (left) reprise their roles as FBI agents Mulder and Scully, and the screenplay (by the series' creator Chris Carter) gives them a meaty conundrum to chew on.

On general release

In The Castle, truck driver Darryl Kerrigan (Michael Caton) decides to fight back and stand up for his rights when his home is threatened with demolition to make way for an airport. A classic case of the little man fighting his corner, this is an entertaining Australian piece of kitsch.

Limited release

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

KARA MILLER'S *Tamagotchi Heaven* has the most improbable of scenarios: a single young female develops a crush on her Tamagotchi pet that can only end in tears. Despite a patchy script, the multi-media visuals, together with a strong performance from Amanda Drew as the lonely Sloane, convey a plausible state of surrogate romance.

Pleasance, Edinburgh (0131-556 6550) 4.35pm
Peter Hall's staging of *Major Barbara* - Shaw's think-tank drama about arms and humanity - lights up the topicality of the issues without any spurious modernity. Peter Bowles (above) stars as cannon-maker Andrew Undershaft, Jemma Redgrave as his daughter, Barbara. Piccadilly Theatre, London W1 (0171-369 1734) 7.45pm



Art Richard Ingleby



IT CANNOT have been easy for the Flowers East gallery to know where to draw the line for its summer exhibition of British Figurative Sculpture (right) - a theme that is at once specific and yet hugely broad. A few turkeys have found their way into the coop, but there are some good things, especially among the less figurative works by the likes of Stephen Cox and William Turnbull. British Figurative Sculpture. Flowers East, 199-205 Richmond Road, London E8 (0181-985 3333) to 20 Sept

Not included, for obvious reasons, is Richard Long, one of the country's finest, if least figurative, sculptors, but until 6 September, his Six Stone Circles can be seen in the great outdoors of the Yorkshire Sculpture Park at Wakefield.

Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Bretton Hall, Wakefield (01924 820322)

Comedy James Rampton

TAKING IN everything from playing Joe Mangel in Neighbours to hosting The Big Breakfast, Mark Little (right) has had a varied



career. Perhaps his greatest love, however, is stand-up comedy. He creates a wonderful rapport with audiences and is not afraid to be labelled with the unfashionable tag of "political". "If it's passé, then OK, call me passé," he says. "One has to be political. Life is political. If someone is brave enough to talk about the politics of the environment on stage, people say 'oh God, no'. But if we don't do something about it, we're stuffed. Someone has to put up an alternative."

Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh (0131-226 2428) 10pm

Jack Dee calls Norman Lovett "one of my favourite comedians". It's not hard to see why. They share a love of understated gags and deadpan delivery.

Canal Café Theatre, London W2 (0171-289 6054) 8pm

GENERAL RELEASE

THE ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD (U)

A perfect antidote to the bombast of *Armageddon*. Can be found in Michael Curtiz's merry and inventive romp, one of the greatest swashbucklers ever made.

Rio Cinema

ARMAGEDDON (12)

This deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action adventure and a global disaster movie in which a meteor is on a collision course with Earth. ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

THE AVENGERS (12)

Ralph Fiennes dons the bowler hat and wields the cane as Steed, while Sean Connery sashays around in a kilt as August D. Winter, who plans to fly over the world by controlling the weather. ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE (U)

Feature-length exploits for the big, jolly dinosaur. Ideal for the more demanding pre-school viewer, an endurance test for adults.

UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE CASTLE (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above

Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Swiss Cottage

THE DAYTRIPPERS (15)

Worried that her husband (Stanley Tucci) may be having an affair, Eliza (Hope Davis) confides in her parents, only to find that the whole family wants to accompany her to Manhattan to confront him. Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

DR DOLITTLE (PG)

The thought of Eddie Murphy performing within the restrictions of a PG film may not be a promising one, but *Dr Dolittle* shows that his talents are surprisingly pliable. Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

EVE'S BAYOU (15)

Rites-of-passage drama set in Louisiana locations that have been devalued by too many Southern Comfort ads. Despite some intuitive observations, this feels, for the most part, like reheated Fried Green Tomatoes.

Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Mezzanine, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero

FIRELIGHT (15)

Starchy 19th-century melodrama starring Sophie Marceau as a Swiss governess who bears a child for the wealthy aristocrat Stephen Dillane, then devotes the rest of her life to finding the girl. Clapham Picture House, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Haymarket

GANG RELATED (15)

A new thriller which gives a few welcome twists to the formulaic routine of drive-by shootings and fire-fighter homeboys.

Virgin Trocadero

THE GINGERBREAD MAN (15)

The routine level of so much in *The Gingerbread Man* disappoints, but odd fragments remind you that here we have a great director (Robert Altman) marking time.

ABC Swiss Centre

GODZILLA (PG)

The team that cooked up *Independence Day* is generally very adept at constructing enjoyable adventures. Unfortunately, in this case, their light touch has deserted them.

Empire Leicester

GREASE (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)

Twentieth-anniversary reissue of the nostalgic American high-school musical starring John Travolta as the slick haired heart-breaker.

Plaza, Virgin Trocadero

HANA-BI (18)

Violent yet elegiac portrait of a brutal Japanese policeman pushed over the edge by his traumatic personal life.

ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Metro

THE LITTLE MERMAID (U)

After years of churning out sub-standard animated features, this sprightly, re-released adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's story begins a string of hits for the newly rejuvenated Disney Studios. Pleasantly jazzy holiday fare.

Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Warner Village

LOST IN SPACE (PG)

William Hurt stars as a scientist who journeys with his family into space to save the Earth from environmental destruction and, of course, learns how to bond with his kids in the process.

ABC Tottenham Court Road, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15)

A warm, subtle comedy starring John Hurt as a reclusive widower who becomes obsessed with a young film actor (Jason Priestley).

ABC Piccadilly, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green

THE MAGIC SWORD: QUEST FOR CAMELOT (U)

The first full-length product of Warner's new animation division, this Arthurian adventure looks - and courtesy of the inevitable Céline Dion, sounds - even cheesier than the average Disney effort. But beneath the surface there's an edge of genuine weirdness that will keep parents entertained, if it doesn't frighten the children out of their wits.

UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MAJORETTES IN SPACE: FIVE GAY TALES FROM FRANCE (18)

The best reason for seeing this is François Ozon's *Summer Dress* and *A Little Death*. You may also be delighted by the film from which the collection takes its name.

ICA Cinema

PSYCHO (15)

I envy anyone who will get their first taste of *Psycho* with this new print. Imagine seeing the Bates Motel for the very first time.

Chelsea Cinema

THE THIEF (15)

Writer-director Pavel Chukhrai tries for that brand of unforced poetry pioneered by Louis Malle in *Lacombe, Lucien*. Unfortunately, he doesn't quite pull it off.

ABC Swiss Centre

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)

A shamelessly dumb but very winning comedy about a hopelessly romantic wedding singer (Saturday Night Live's Adam Sandler) who falls in love with a waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to find that she's engaged to someone else.

Odeon Mezzanine, Warner Village West End

ZERO EFFECT (15)

Thriller starring Bill Pullman as Daryl Zero, the world's greatest private investigator, a drop-out who subsists on tuna fish, Tab and amphetamines, pulling on reserves of wit and ingenuity when the time comes to crack a new case.

Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET

(0171-935 9772) • Baker Street
The Avengers 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm
The X-Files 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm

ABC PANTON STREET

(0171-930 0631) • Piccadilly
Crus As Good As It Gets 2pm, 5pm, 8pm
The Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
The X-Files 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-437 3561) • Piccadilly
Crus As Good As It Gets 2pm, 5pm, 8pm
Love And Death On Long Island 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE

(0171-836 6279) • Leicester Square
Tottenham Court Road
Hana-Bi 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
The X-Files 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0171-438 4470) • Leicester Square
Squaring Deconstructing... Harry 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
The Gingerbread Man 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
La Grande Illusion 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0171-536 6148) • Tottenham Court Road
Armageddon 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9.05pm
The Avengers 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
The X-Files 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

BARBICAN SCREEN

(0171-382 7000) • Moorgate/Barbican
The Avengers 6.15pm, 8.40pm
The Best With A Million Eyes 6.15pm, 8.40pm
The X-Files 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHelsea CINEMA

(0171-351 3747) • Sloane Square
Psycho 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(0171-498 2242) • Clapham Common
Armageddon 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
The Avengers 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm
The X-Files 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

CURZON MAYFAIR

(0171-369 1720) • Green Park Le
Bossu 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET

(0171-703 4968) • Elephant & Castle
Armageddon 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm
The Avengers 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
The X-Files 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

(0171-437 1234) • Leicester Square
Castle 3.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm
Godzilla 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm

GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 4043) • Notting Hill Gate
Gate Notting Hill 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN

(0870-9070718) • Hammersmith
Armageddon 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
The Avengers 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
The X-Files 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ICA CINEMA

(0171-930 3647) • Charing Cross
Majorettes In Space: Five Gay Tales From France 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

LEICESTER SQUARE

(0171-437 0757) • Piccadilly
Crus As Good As It Gets 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
The X-Files 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) • Notting Hill Gate
Gate Notting Hill 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm

Odeon CAMDEN TOWN

(0181-315 4229) • Camden Town
Armageddon 1.55pm, 5.10pm, 8.25pm
The Avengers 12noon, 2.55pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm
The X-Files 1.55pm, 5.10pm, 8.25pm, 11.40pm

Odeon KENSINGTON

(0181-315 4214) • High Street
Kensington Armageddon 1.45pm, 5.10pm, 8.35pm
The Avengers 1.45pm, 5.10pm, 8.35pm, 11.10pm
The X-Files 1.45pm, 5.10pm, 8.35pm, 11.10pm

Odeon LEICESTER SQUARE

(0181-315 4215) • Leicester Square
Armageddon 2.10pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm

Odeon MARBLE ARCH

(0181-315 4216) • Marble Arch
Armageddon 1.35pm, 5.05pm, 8.30pm
The Avengers 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm
The X-Files 1.35pm, 5.05pm, 8.30pm, 11.10pm

Odeon METROLAND

(0181-315 4217) • Leicester Square
Armageddon 1.45pm, 5.10pm, 8.35pm, 11.10pm
The X-Files 1.45pm, 5.10pm, 8.35pm, 11.10pm

Odeon MEZZANINE

(0181-315 4218) • Leicester Square
Eve's Bayou 1.45pm, 4.40pm, 7.35pm, 10.30pm
The X-Files 1.45pm, 4.40pm, 7.35pm, 10.30pm

Odeon SWISS COTTAGE

(0181-315 4219) • Swiss Cottage
Armageddon 1.45pm, 5.10pm, 8.35pm, 11.10pm
The X-Files 1.45pm, 5.10pm, 8.35pm, 11.10pm

Odeon TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0171-536 6148) • Tottenham Court Road
Armageddon 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9.05pm
The Avengers 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
The X-Files 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

Odeon WEST END

(0181-315 4220) • Leicester Square
Armageddon 1.45pm, 5.10pm, 8.35pm, 11.10pm
The X-Files 1.45pm, 5.10pm, 8.35pm, 11.10pm

FLAZA

(0171-437 1234) • Piccadilly
Crus As Good As It Gets 2pm, 5pm, 8pm
Love And Death On Long Island 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE

(0181-254 6677) • Dalston Kingsway
Hana-Bi 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

RITZY CINEMA

(0171-737 2121/733 2229) • BR • Brixton
Armageddon 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.35pm
The Avengers 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.35pm, 11.10pm
The X-Files 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.35pm, 11.10pm

ALFORD (0181-315 4223) BR Gants Hill Armageddon 1.20pm, 4.00pm, 7.50pm. The Avengers 6.50pm, 8.55pm. Barney's Great Adventure 11.40am Dr Dollittle 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm. Goddalla 1pm, 3.50pm, 5.50pm, 7.50pm, 9.50pm, 11.40pm. The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.40pm. The X-Files 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

KINGSTON
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston Armageddon 4.25pm, 7.45pm. The Avengers 6.55pm, 8.35pm. Dr Dollittle 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm. The X-Files 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm.

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (0181-315 4217) BR: Highgate Armageddon 1.20pm, 5.05pm, 8.05pm. Dr Dollittle 1.10pm, 2.55pm, 4.55pm, 6.55pm. Lost In Space 8.20pm. The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.20pm. The X-Files 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm.

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye Armageddon 2.55pm, 6pm, 9.05pm. The Avengers 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9pm. Barney's Great Adventure 12.45pm. Dr Dollittle 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm, 6.55pm, 8.50pm. Eve's Bayou 4.35pm, 7pm, 9.55pm. Goddalla 1.40pm, 3.40pm, 5.40pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm, 11.40pm. The Little Mermaid 2.30pm. Related 3.30pm. Goddalla 2.15pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm. The X-Files 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm.

PURLEY
ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley Armageddon 4.25pm, 7.40pm. The Avengers 6.20pm, 8.45pm. Dr Dollittle 12.25pm, 2.25pm, 4.25pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm. The X-Files 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm.

PUTNEY
ABC (0870 9020401) BR: Putney Bridge Armageddon 4.45pm, 8pm. The Avengers 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm. Dr Dollittle 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm. The X-Files 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm.

RICHMOND
ODEON (0181-315 4218) BR: Richmond Armageddon 1.40pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm. The Avengers 1.20pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.30pm. The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12noon. The X-Files 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm.

ODEON STUDIO (0181-315 4218) BR: Richmond Barney's Great Adventure 1pm City Of Angels 3.20pm, 9pm. Dr Dollittle 1pm, 3pm, 5.05pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm. Goddalla 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm. The Little Mermaid 1.10pm. Lost In Space 3pm, 5.05pm, 8.30pm. Metroland 3pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm.

ROIMFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Roimford Armageddon 4.40pm, 7.50pm. The Avengers 6.50pm, 9pm. Dr Dollittle 1.20pm, 3.10pm, 5pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm. The X-Files 2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm.

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (01708-729040) BR: Roimford Armageddon 12.45pm, 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 7.30pm, 8.05pm. The Avengers 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm, 9pm. Barney's Great Adventure 12.10pm. Dr Dollittle 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm. The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.30pm. Mousehunt 10.30am. Paws 10.30am. Star Kid 10.30am. The X-Files 12noon, 2pm, 3pm, 5.15pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, 8.30pm.

SIDCUP
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup Armageddon 7.50pm. Barney's Great Adventure 12.40pm. Dr Dollittle 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm. The X-Files 5.15pm, 8.15pm.

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Crickwood Armageddon 1.20pm, 4.40pm, 8pm. The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9pm. Barney's Great Adventure 12.30pm. Dr Dollittle 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm, 10.40pm. The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.30pm. Mousehunt 10.30am. Paws 10.30am. Star Kid 10.30am. The X-Files 12noon, 2pm, 3pm, 5.15pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, 8.30pm.

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Armageddon 1.15pm, 4.30pm, 7.45pm, 10.40pm, 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm. Eve's Bayou 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm. Goddalla 2.15pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm. The X-Files 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm.

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Streatham Hill Armageddon 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm. The Avengers 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm. Barney's Great Adventure 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm, 10.45pm. Goddalla 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm, 10.20pm. The Little Mermaid 1.10pm. Lost In Space 3pm, 5.05pm, 8.30pm. Metroland 3pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm.

STRATFORD
CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR: Fetham Armageddon 11.30am, 12.40pm, 1.40pm, 2.40pm, 3.40pm, 4.40pm, 5.40pm, 6.40pm, 7.40pm, 8.40pm, 9.40pm, 10.40pm. The Avengers 12.05pm, 1.10pm, 2.10pm, 3.10pm, 4.10pm, 5.10pm, 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 8.10pm, 9.10pm, 10.10pm. The Avengers 12.05pm, 1.10pm, 2.10pm, 3.10pm, 4.10pm, 5.10pm, 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 8.10pm, 9.10pm, 10.10pm. The Avengers 12.05pm, 1.10pm, 2.10pm, 3.10pm, 4.10pm, 5.10pm, 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 8.10pm, 9.10pm, 10.10pm.

STRATFORD
CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR: Fetham Armageddon 11.30am, 12.40pm, 1.40pm, 2.40pm, 3.40pm, 4.40pm, 5.40pm, 6.40pm, 7.40pm, 8.40pm, 9.40pm, 10.40pm. The Avengers 12.05pm, 1.10pm, 2.10pm, 3.10pm, 4.10pm, 5.10pm, 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 8.10pm, 9.10pm, 10.10pm. The Avengers 12.05pm, 1.10pm, 2.10pm, 3.10pm, 4.10pm, 5.10pm, 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 8.10pm, 9.10pm, 10.10pm. The Avengers 12.05pm, 1.10pm, 2.10pm, 3.10pm, 4.10pm, 5.10pm, 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 8.10pm, 9.10pm, 10.10pm.

STRATFORD
CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR: Fetham Armageddon 11.30am, 12.40pm, 1.40pm, 2.40pm, 3.40pm, 4.40pm, 5.40pm, 6.40pm, 7.40pm, 8.40pm, 9.40pm, 10.40pm. The Avengers 12.05pm, 1.10pm, 2.10pm, 3.10pm, 4.10pm, 5.10pm, 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 8.10pm, 9.10pm, 10.10pm. The Avengers 12.05pm, 1.10pm, 2.10pm, 3.10pm, 4.10pm, 5.10pm, 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 8.10pm, 9.10pm, 10.10pm. The Avengers 12.05pm, 1.10pm, 2.10pm, 3.10pm, 4.10pm, 5.10pm, 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 8.10pm, 9.10pm, 10.10pm.

STRATFORD
CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR: Fetham Armageddon 11.30am, 12.40pm, 1.40pm, 2.40pm, 3.40pm, 4.40pm, 5.40pm, 6.40pm, 7.40pm, 8.40pm, 9.40pm, 10.40pm. The Avengers 12.05pm, 1.10pm, 2.10pm, 3.10pm, 4.10pm, 5.10pm, 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 8.10pm, 9.10pm, 10.10pm. The Avengers 12.05pm, 1.10pm, 2.10pm, 3.10pm, 4.10pm, 5.10pm, 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 8.10pm, 9.10pm, 10.10pm. The Avengers 12.05pm, 1.10pm, 2.10pm, 3.10pm, 4.10pm, 5.10pm, 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 8.10pm, 9.10pm, 10.10pm.

STRATFORD
CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR: Fetham Armageddon 11.30am, 12.40pm, 1.40pm, 2.40pm, 3.40pm, 4.40pm, 5.40pm, 6.40pm, 7.40pm, 8.40pm, 9.40pm, 10.40pm. The Avengers 12.05pm, 1.10pm, 2.10pm, 3.10pm, 4.10pm, 5.10pm, 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 8.10pm, 9.10pm, 10.10pm. The Avengers 12.05pm, 1.10pm, 2.10pm, 3.10pm, 4.10pm, 5.10pm, 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 8.10pm, 9.10pm, 10.10pm. The Avengers 12.05pm, 1.10pm, 2.10pm, 3.10pm, 4.10pm, 5.10pm, 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 8.10pm, 9.10pm, 10.10pm.

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519) BR: Turnpike Lane Armageddon 1.30pm, 4.50pm, 8pm. The Avengers 7pm, 9pm. Dr Dollittle 1.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm. The X-Files 2.30pm, 5.15pm, 8.25pm.

WALTHAMSTON
ABC (0870-9020424) BR: Walthamstow Central Armageddon 4.50pm, 7.50pm. The Avengers 6.45pm, 8.45pm. Dr Dollittle 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm. Lost In Space 1.50pm. The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.15pm. The X-Files 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8pm.

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252225) BR: Walton on Thames Armageddon 6.05pm. The Avengers 3pm. Dr Dollittle 2.20pm, 4.15pm. The X-Files 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm.

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham Armageddon 1.30pm, 4.50pm, 8pm. Dr Dollittle 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.35pm.

WILLESDEN
ODEON (0181-830 0822) BR: Willesden Green The Avengers 6.30pm, 9pm. The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 2.30pm, 4.30pm.

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (0181-315 4222) BR: Wimbledon ABC South Wimbledon Armageddon 1.40pm, 4.50pm, 8pm. The Avengers 2.55pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm. Barney's Great Adventure 12noon. Dr Dollittle 12.15pm, 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm. The Little Mermaid 12.25pm. Lost In Space 1.15pm, 4pm. The X-Files 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm.

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3463) BR: South Woodford Armageddon 4.50pm, 7.50pm. The Avengers 6.40pm, 8.20pm. Barney's Great Adventure 12.20pm. Dr Dollittle 1pm, 3pm, 4.45pm. Goddalla 3pm, 4.45pm. The X-Files 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.15pm.

WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Armageddon 1.30pm, 4.50pm, 8pm. The X-Files 2pm, 5.15pm, 8.25pm.

CINEMA
REPERTORY

LONDON
ICA The Mail SW1 (0171-930 3647) The Quiet Room (NC) 6.30pm, 8.30pm. Majorities In Space: Five Gay Tales From France (18) 5pm, 7pm, 9pm.

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274) cc 9.28 3.23.2 The Exiles (15) 8.30pm. Celia (15) 2.30pm. The Romance (18) 6.10pm. The Life Of Scuff (18) 8.40pm. Moonlight Sonata: The Archive Presents... (NC) 6.15pm.

PEPSI IMAX The Trocadero, Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-494 4153) cc 494 4153 Across The Sea Of Time - A New York Adventure (U) 10.45am, 12.50pm, 2.55pm, 5.10pm, 7.15pm, 9.20pm. Everest (U) 4.05pm. LS - City In Space (U) 11.55am, 2pm, 6.20pm, 8.25pm, 10.30pm.

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) Face/Off (18) 1pm Kiss Or Kill (18) 4pm LA Confidential (18) 9pm.

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road W6 (0181-237 1111) cc 420 0100 La Strada (PG/Bicycle Thieves) 8.45pm. Bicycle Thieves (U) 8.50pm.

DUKE OF YORKS (01773-626261) The Adventures Of Robin Hood (U) 2pm, 6.30pm. Jackie Brown (15) 8.45pm. Sliding Doors (15) 4.15pm.

BRISTOL
WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) The Adventures Of Robin Hood (U) 3pm. Eve's Bayou (15) 6pm. Hana-Bi (18) 6.05pm, 8.35pm. Metroland (18) 8.20pm.

CARDIFF
ARTS CENTRE (01222-395666) Journey To The Beginning Of The World (U) 7.30pm. Touch (15) 8pm.

NORWICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Happy Together (15) 5.45pm. Pansette (15) 8.15pm.

PLYMOUTH
PLYMOUTH ARTS CENTRE (01752-05114) The Taste Of Cherry (PG) 8pm.

CINEMA
COUNTRYWIDE

BRISTOL
CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (01275-831099) Dr Dollittle (PG) Goddalla (PG) The Wedding Singer (12) Lost In Space (PG) Armageddon (12) Six Days, Seven Nights (12) Barney's Great Adventure (U) Dr Seuss (NC) The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot (U) The Little Mermaid (U) Blues Brothers 2000 (PG) Dragonheart (PG) The Godfather Part II (U) The Horse Whisperer (PG) The Avengers (12) Pauley (U)

ODEON (017-929 0882) Anastasia (U) Mousehunt (PG) The Horse Whisperer (PG) Armageddon (12) James And The Giant Peach (U) Dr Dollittle (PG) Lost In Space (PG) The X-Files (15)

ABC WHITELADIES ROAD (0117-973 3640) The Castle (15) Goddalla (PG) Lock Stock And Two Smoking Barrels (18) Armageddon (12) The Avengers (12)

WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) Babe (U) The Adventures Of Robin Hood (U) Hana-Bi (18) Metroland (18) L'Appartement (The Apartment) (15) Eve's Bayou (15)

LUTON
ABC Cinema (0870-9020422) The Avengers (12) The X-Files (15) Goddalla (PG) Barney's Great Adventure (U) Armageddon (12) Dr Dollittle (PG)

PORTRAIL
Portcawl Pavilion (01656-786996) City Of Angels (12)

THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. — Seats at all prices — Seats at some prices — Returns only. Matinee: [1] Sat, [3] Tue, [4] Wed, [5] Thu, [6] Fri, [7] Sat.

DIVAS AT THE DONMAR BARBARA COX Cabaret legend and singer. Donmar Warehouse. Earls Court, WC2 (0171-369 1732) CC Covent Garden, 24-29 Aug, 8pm, mat 29 Aug, 4pm, £15-£30.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-369 1732) CC Covent Garden, 24-29 Aug, 8pm, mat 29 Aug, 4pm, £15-£30.

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama about twins separated at birth. Phoenix, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1732) CC Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £10.50-£29.50, 165 mins.

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Park, WC2 (0171-405 0072) cc 404 4079 CC Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, [3] 7pm, £12.50-£35, 165 mins.

CHICAGO Ruthie Henshall stars in this hit Broadway musical about two murderous women and their nightclub act. Adelphi, Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) CC Charing X, Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, [4] 7.30pm, £16-£36 (incl booking fee), 130 mins.

CLOSER Superb study of contemporary sexual relationships from Dealer's Choice author Patrick Marber. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) CC Pic. Cir. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm, £7.50-£27.50, 140 mins.

GREASE Marisa Dunlop stars in the studio classic tale of love and featuring songs such as 'Summer Lovin' and 'You're the One That I Want'. Cambridge, Earls Court, WC2 (0171-494 5080) CC Covent Garden, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm, £10-£20, 150 mins.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed production of Agatha Christie's Gorky. Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) CC Pic. Cir. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 5pm, £10.50-£25, 110 mins.

JUICY BITS Sexy look at the lives of a selection of twentysomethings. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) CC Pic. Cir. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, ends 12 Sep, £5-£14.

A LETTER OF RESIGNATION Hugh Whitmore's play about the Profumo affair and political morality. Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888) cc 836 0479 CC Charing X/Embankment, Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £12.50-£25, 135 mins.

LOOT Acclaimed revival of Joe Orton's comedy. Vaudeville Strand, WC2 (0171-436 9987) CC Charing X, Mon-Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8-£25.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Classic tale of love and confusion set in the fairy kingdom. Open Air Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431) cc 486 1933 CC Baker Street, Tonight 8pm, ends 5 Sep, £8-£20, 165 mins.

LES MISERABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's sprawling 19th century masterpiece. Palace, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0500) CC Pic. Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] 7.30pm, £7-£35, 195 mins.

MISS SAIGON Musical which re-creates the Saigon Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) CC Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 7.30pm, £5-£35, 165 mins.

THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodunit. St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) CC Pic. Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £9-£23, 135 mins.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400) cc 444 4444 CC Pic. Cir. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 7.30pm, £10-£35, 150 mins.

POPCORN Lawrence Boswell directs Ben Elton's satire on cinema violence. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) CC Pic. Cir. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, ends 12 Sep, £6.50-£23.50, 150 mins.

THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND & BLACK COMEDY Double bill of drama from Tom Stoppard and Peter Schaffer, directed by Gregory Doran. Comedy Partners, SW1 (0171-369 1731) CC Pic. Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm, £7.50-£27.50, 165 mins.

RENT Musical inspired by La Bohème and set in New York. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399) CC Holborn/Theatre Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm, £12.50-£30, 160 mins.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE COLMAN. Oklahoma! Classic musical from Rodgers and Hammerstein, featuring the song 'O! What A Beautiful Mornin'. Mon-Sat 7.15pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, ends 10 Oct, 195 mins.

LYTTELTON Larry Flynn Patrick Kavanagh's drama explores the ambition of an Irish farmer poet. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 28 Aug, 168 mins. Lyttelton, 28-29 Aug, 8.30pm, £12-£32.50, Day seats from 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000) CC Embankment.

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Hit 1970s musical featuring legendary and three new tracks by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Carolla. London Palladium, Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) CC Oxford Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm, £10-£32.50.

SHOW BOAT Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein's musical set on the Mississippi, featuring the song 'O! Man River'. Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 6400) CC Pic. Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] 7.30pm, £10-£35, 180 mins.

SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE - THE SONGS OF LEIBER AND ASHCROFT The rockabilly hit-makers celebrated in a musical revue which includes Jailhouse Rock, Prince Of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) CC Pic. Cir. Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 7.45pm & 9.30pm, Sat 3pm & 8pm, £15-£32.50, Fri mats £10-£25, 135 mins.

STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech rock-musical. Apollo Victoria, Wiltan Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR: Victoria, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3] 7.30pm, £12.50-£30, 150 mins.

WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name about two children who mistake an escaped convict for Jesus. Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6000) cc 836 2428 CC Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] 7.30pm, £10-£32.50, 120 mins.

THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan Hill's chillingly effective ghost story. Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238) cc 344 4444 CC Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£23.50, 110 mins.

THEATRE
BEYOND THE WEST END

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS The African Company Presents Richard III Drama exploring the struggles of a black theatre company as it works to put its work in a racist world. 25 Sep. 10.15am, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm, £10-£15, 110 mins.

YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE Phedre. Diana Rigg stars in Foot Laureate Ted Hughes's new translation of Racine's tragedy. Mon-Thu 7.45pm, Fri-Sat 8pm, mats Thu & Sat, 2.30pm, £14-£21.50, concs available. Wilton Road (01483-440000)

HORNCHURCH
QUEEN'S THEATRE Live Bed Show. Toyah Wilcox stars in Arthur Smith's new comedy. Mon-Sat 8pm, ends 29 Aug, £5.50-£12.50. Bille Lane (01708-443333)

ILFRACOMBE
THE LANDMARK Barnum Peter Duncan stars in this circus show, complete with death defying

MONDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.9-99.8MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo. 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow. 12.30 Newsbeat. 12.45 Jo Whiley. 3.00 Celine Dion. 6.30 Lamacz Live. 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs. 12.00 The Breeze. 2.00 Charlie Jordan. 4.00 Chris Moyles.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Sarah Kennedy. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 John Dunn. 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton. 8.00 Big Band Special. 9.30 The Chris Barber Jazz Quartet. 9.30 Mark Lamarr. 10.30 Rattle and Roll. Sea Pick of the Day. 10.30 Richard Allinson. 12.05 Steve Madden. 3.00-4.00 Annie Othen.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Proms Artist of the Week. 11.00 Edinburgh International Festival 98. 11.40 Colin Blunnie. 12.00 Concert, part 2. 12.30 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 BBC Proms 98. (R) 4.00 Opera to Order. 4.45 Music Machine. (R) 5.00 In Tune. 7.30 BBC Proms 98. A welcome return to the Proms for a great Russian orchestra and a debut for the son of the conductor in a popular Russian concerto. Tchaikovsky's brilliant score sets the tone and Stravinsky contributes a vivid story of magic and mystery in a kaleidoscope of virtuoso orchestral colour. From the Royal Albert Hall, London. Sasha Rozhdenskiy (violin), St. Tchaikovsky: Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture. Prokofiev: Violin Concerto No 2. 8.25 Dancing for the Ballets Russes. The ballerina Irina Baronova talks to Christopher Cook about the period in which she was coached by the great choreographer Mikhail Fokine in roles including Stravinsky's 'Petushka'. This was in the 1930s when Diaghilev had died, and the repertoire of the Ballets Russes was being maintained by

PICK OF THE DAY

SO MUCH for rock 'n' roll as the language of youth: the new Late Book is *The Rolling Thunder Logbook* (12.30am RA), Sam Shepard's account of life on the road with Bob Dylan in the autumn of 1975. Shepard had been hired to script a projected film of the tour. Dylan has inspired great writing in the past, but trying to describe his Bobness's music doesn't bring

out the best in Shepard: he comes up with some fairly unoriginal stuff, though fans will enjoy the travelogue. Meanwhile, Brylcreem by Mark Lamarr's (97.9) excellent showcase for Fifties rock 'n' roll, Shale, Rattle and Roll (8.30pm R2), promises to move onto a new plane of pure enjoyment with an edition devoted to Little Richard.



ROBERT HANES

impresario Colonel de Basil. Baronova's memories are vivid and perceptive, as she recalls Stravinsky seated. 6.45 Stravinsky: Petrushka (1947). 9.40 Postscript. One of the major playwrights of the 20th century, Bertolt Brecht is now seen as perhaps Germany's greatest modern poet. In five programmes this week, Adrian Mitchell looks at Brecht poems and songs. The readers include Maria Friedman and Harold Pinter. 1. 'Of Poor B'. A look at the early poems. 10.00 Music for Strings. Wolfgang Redl, Verena Stourzh (violin), Georg Hamann, Valeria Sotefz (viola), Rezzo Perinot, Janos Zsoldos (cello). Schubert: String Quintet in C, D956. Strauss: Sextet (Capriccio). Schoenberg: Verklarte Nacht, Op 4. 11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 BBC Philharmonic. 1.00-6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Word for Word. 9.30 Speaker's Corner. 9.45 Speak after the Beep. (R) 10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour. 11.00 NEWS: Mapping the Town. 12.30 Little Novels. (R) 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Words in Music. 2.00 NEWS: The Archers. 2.15 NEWS: Afternoon Play: Hidden Identity. (R) 3.00 Inside Money.

RADIO 5
(93.0-93.1MHz FM)
6.00 The Breakfast Programme. 9.00 Nicky Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Glover and Co. 4.00 Nationwide. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 Master Managers. Bryon Butler reassesses the careers of six outstanding postwar football managers. 1. Stan Cullis. 8.00 Trevor Brooking's Monday Match. Featuring full commentary from Elland Road where Leeds United take on Blackburn. 10.00 Late Night Live. With Brian Hayes. Incl 10.30 Sport. 11.00 News. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00-6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 9.00 Michael Mappin. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Cullum. 6.30 Newnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00-6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO
(125.187-125.94MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Bobbly Hain. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Mark Forrest. FM only Paul Coyte from 6.45. 7.30 Paul Coyte. 10.00 Mark Forrest. 1.00 Peter Poutton. 4.30-6.30 Jeremy Clark.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

TIMING ONE'S resignation is as much an art as chess itself. It is all too often neglected. If one is going to lose, it is important for one's self-respect that the position one resigns in should not be too awful. In the following game from the British Championship, White went on far too long, having missed several good opportunities to resign earlier.

White's attempts to attack on the K-side met with no success against good defence and Black increased his influence on the c-file and d-file. When White missed the elegant 28...Nxd2 he could almost have resigned on the spot, but perhaps it was sensible to take the knight, then look around to see whether anything could be done to salvage the situation. When he came out of it with only rook and knight for queen and two pawns, however, it was time to call it a day, yet White struggled on for another 25 pointless moves until Black had gained another queen.

His only claim to self-respect is his success in producing a game that fits perfectly into the column on the right.

White: K. Sashikiran
Black: P. Wells

1 d4 Nf6	31 Rxd5 Nxd5
2 Nf3 d5	32 Rd2 Qe3
3 c4 e6	33 Rxd2 Nxe5
4 Nc3 c6	34 Nxe5 Qe1+
5 e3 Nbd7	35 Kf2 Qxe5+
6 Bg3 dxc4	36 Kg1 Kc7
7 Bxc4 b5	37 Kf1 a5
8 Bb3 Bb7	38 g4 Qa1+
9 c4 b4	39 Kg2 Qe5
10 Ne2 c5	40 Kf1 Kd8
11 e5 Nd5	41 Rd2+ Kc7
12 0-0 Rb8	42 Rc2+ Kd6
13 Re1 Qb6	43 Re2 Qd5
14 Bg5 h6	44 Re2 f5
15 Bb4 Be7	45 gxf5 exf5
16 Bxe7 Nxe7	46 Re4 Qc3
17 Ng3 cxd4	47 Rh4 Qc3
18 Bxd4 0-0	48 Rh3 Qa1+
19 Bxb7 Qxb7	49 Kg2 Qxc2
20 Qxd4 Nc5	50 Rxd4 a4
21 Rd1 Qb6	51 bxa4 b3
22 Qg4 Rf8	52 a5+ Kxa5
23 h4 Nd3	53 Re7 Kb6
24 Re2 Rd8	54 Rg7 b2
25 Ne4 Kd5	55 Rg6+ Kc7
26 Rd2 Rcd8	56 Rxb6 b1=Q
27 b3 Nc2	57 Rh7+ Kd6
28 h5 Nxd2	58 Rh6+ Kd5
29 Nd2 Nc3	White resigned
30 Rxd5 Rxd5	

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

WHEN I was given just the North-South hands to play, I was told that a very distinguished declarer had contrived to go down in Three No-trumps after a heart lead. So I was on the look-out for traps.

I was not given the bidding (perhaps it went 10-2-4; 3-4-3-4; Three No-trumps-pass; but West led ♠ J against Three No-trumps. This meant that there were seven top winners and excellent chances of developing at least two more. With the advantage of seeing all four hands it is clear that a winning diamond finesse can be taken at trick two and then a spade trick established.

The problem is that if the finesse of ♠ J loses to a singleton king, the defenders will clear the hearts and, with only two diamond tricks to come, it will be too late to do anything in spades. Apparently declarer visualised this possibility and correctly led a diamond at trick two. There was no singleton king and he continued with a low diamond from the table.

He would have been home if either suit had broken 3-2 or if East had held the missing king, but you can see what happened here: East showed out on the diamond lead and, with only two tricks to come from the suit and no time,

Game all; dealer South

North		East	
♠ K O 4	♥ A 10 9 8	♠ A 10 9 8	♥ K 8 6 5 4
♦ 7 3	♣ A J 5 2	♦ K 10 8 7	♣ 6
♠ A J 5 2	♥ K 7 3	♠ 10 6	♥ 8 5 2
South		West	
♠ 6 5 2	♥ A Q	♠ J 7 3	♥ A 10 9 8
♦ A Q	♣ Q 9 4 3	♦ J 10 9 2	♣ K 8 6 5 4
♠ Q 9 4 3	♥ A J 9 4	♦ K 10 8 7	♣ 6
♠ 10 6	♥ 8 5 2	♠ 10 6	♥ 8 5 2

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

IT MAY still be summer as far as most people are concerned, but the football season is already in full swing. Leeds vs Blackburn (7pm Sky Sports 1), from Elland Road, offers a clash between two of the Premiership's canniest managers. The experienced Roy Hodgson of Blackburn is pitted against wily old campaigner George Graham from Leeds. United, a manager who tends to produce teams it's hard to score against. The remarkably versatile

Meryl Streep (right) has tried it all, and now she's for size during her outstanding career (Polish in *Sophisticated Choice*, English in *Plenty*). She gives Australian a whirl in *A Cry in the Dark* (9pm Living), Fred Schepisi's powerful account of the true-life story about Lindy Chamberlain, who was accused of murdering her baby. She claimed that the infant had been snatched by a dingy near Ayers Rock.



JAMES RAMPTON

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
4.00 Rex Hunts Fishing Adventures (12/12/97). 4.30 Top Marques (11/10/97). 5.00 First Flights (5/12/14). 5.30 Jurassic I (11/14/97). 6.00 Wildlife SOS (10/3/97). 6.30 Predator (5/12/97). 7.30 Arthur C. Clarke's World of Strange Powers (11/19/97). 8.00 Adventures of the Quest (10/22/97). 9.00 The Fire below Us (10/18/97). 10.00 War with Japan (10/18/97). 11.00 Grace the Sides: The Story of Victims (5/12/97). 12.00 First Flights (10/3/97). 12.30 Top Marques (11/10/97). 1.00 Adrenaline Rush Hour: Shoot to Thrill (5/12/97). 2.00 Close.

SKY 1
6.00 Tattered Teenage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills (2/3/98). 6.30 Street Sharks (2/3/97). 9.00 Garfield and Friends (1998). 9.30 The Simpsons (10/2/97). 10.00 Games World (2/3/98). 10.30 Just Kidding (1998). 11.00 The New Adventures of Superman (1998). 12.00 Married with Children (2/3/98). 12.30 M*A*S*H (10/2/97). 12.45 The Special K Collection (10/2/97). 1.00 Gerardo (5/2/98). 1.30 The Special K Collection (10/2/97). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (10/2/97). 2.30 The Special K Collection (10/2/97). 3.00 Jerry Jones (5/2/98). 3.30 The Special K Collection (10/2/97). 4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (2/2/97). 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (9/8/97). 5.30 Married with Children (2/3/97). 7.00 The Simpsons (10/2/97).

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Ford Football Special: Aston Villa v Middlesex (10/3/97). 8.30 Racing News (5/2/98). 9.00 Aerobics: Oz Style (7/2/97). 9.30 Shooting (7/2/97). 10.30 Scottish Football Dundee v St Johnstone (10/2/97). 12.30 What a Weekend (10/2/97). 1.00 Ford Football Special: Aston Villa v Middlesex (10/3/97). 2.30 Shooting (7/2/97). 3.30 Motorcycling (7/2/97). 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (5/2/98). 10.30 Northern Hemisphere (10/2/97). 1.00-2.00 Long Row (10/2/97).

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Ford Football Special: Aston Villa v Middlesex (10/3/97). 8.30 Racing News (5/2/98). 9.00 Aerobics: Oz Style (7/2/97). 9.30 Shooting (7/2/97). 10.30 Scottish Football Dundee v St Johnstone (10/2/97). 12.30 What a Weekend (10/2/97). 1.00 Ford Football Special: Aston Villa v Middlesex (10/3/97). 2.30 Shooting (7/2/97). 3.30 Motorcycling (7/2/97). 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (5/2/98). 10.30 Northern Hemisphere (10/2/97). 1.00-2.00 Long Row (10/2/97).

SKY SPORTS 3
7.00 Ford Football Special: Aston Villa v Middlesex (10/3/97). 8.30 Racing News (5/2/98). 9.00 Aerobics: Oz Style (7/2/97). 9.30 Shooting (7/2/97). 10.30 Scottish Football Dundee v St Johnstone (10/2/97). 12.30 What a Weekend (10/2/97). 1.00 Ford Football Special: Aston Villa v Middlesex (10/3/97). 2.30 Shooting (7/2/97). 3.30 Motorcycling (7/2/97). 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (5/2/98). 10.30 Northern Hemisphere (10/2/97). 1.00-2.00 Long Row (10/2/97).

SKY SPORTS 4
7.00 Ford Football Special: Aston Villa v Middlesex (10/3/97). 8.30 Racing News (5/2/98). 9.00 Aerobics: Oz Style (7/2/97). 9.30 Shooting (7/2/97). 10.30 Scottish Football Dundee v St Johnstone (10/2/97). 12.30 What a Weekend (10/2/97). 1.00 Ford Football Special: Aston Villa v Middlesex (10/3/97). 2.30 Shooting (7/2/97). 3.30 Motorcycling (7/2/97). 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (5/2/98). 10.30 Northern Hemisphere (10/2/97). 1.00-2.00 Long Row (10/2/97).

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1
6.05 Fiddler on the Roof (1971) (5/19/98). 9.05 The Long Walk Home (1990) (5/19/98). 10.45 Looking for Trouble (1985) (5/19/98). 12.30 The Land before Time (1988/7/78). 1.45 The Land before Time II: The Great Valley Adventure (1988/7/78). 3.00 The Land before Time III: The Time of the Great Giving (1988/7/78). 4.15 The Land before Time IV: Journey through the Mists (1988/7/78). 5.30 Luch Ness (1988) (5/19/98). 7.35 The Land before Time V: Journey through the Mists (1988/7/78). 9.00 The Silence of the Lambs (1991) (5/19/98). 10.00 Vampire Journals (1997) (2/2/98). 12.30 Dying to Be Perfect: The Ellen Hart Paron Story (1998) (5/19/98). 2.05 The Underachievers (1987) (5/19/98). 3.35-6.00 Cheech and Chong's The Corsican Brothers (1984) (4/9/92).

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2
6.05 Underwater (1955) (5/19/98). 8.00 Divorce, American Style (1967) (5/19/98). 10.00 Corners (1945) (5/19/98). 12.00 The Night of the Living Dicks (1988) (5/19/98). 1.00 Divorce, American Style (1967) (5/19/98). 2.00 Underwater (1955) (5/19/98). 3.35-6.00 Cheech and Chong's The Corsican Brothers (1984) (4/9/92).

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 3
4.00 Love Story (1970) (5/19/98). 6.00 Major League (1989) (5/19/98). 8.00 Honey, We Shrunk Ourselves (1997) (5/19/98). 10.00 Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) (5/19/98). 12.00 The Untouchables (1960) (5/19/98). 1.00 Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) (5/19/98). 2.00 Underwater (1955) (5/19/98). 3.35-6.00 Cheech and Chong's The Corsican Brothers (1984) (4/9/92).

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 4
4.00 Love Story (1970) (5/19/98). 6.00 Major League (1989) (5/19/98). 8.00 Honey, We Shrunk Ourselves (1997) (5/19/98). 10.00 Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) (5/19/98). 12.00 The Untouchables (1960) (5/19/98). 1.00 Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) (5/19/98). 2.00 Underwater (1955) (5/19/98). 3.35-6.00 Cheech and Chong's The Corsican Brothers (1984) (4/9/92).

PUZZLE

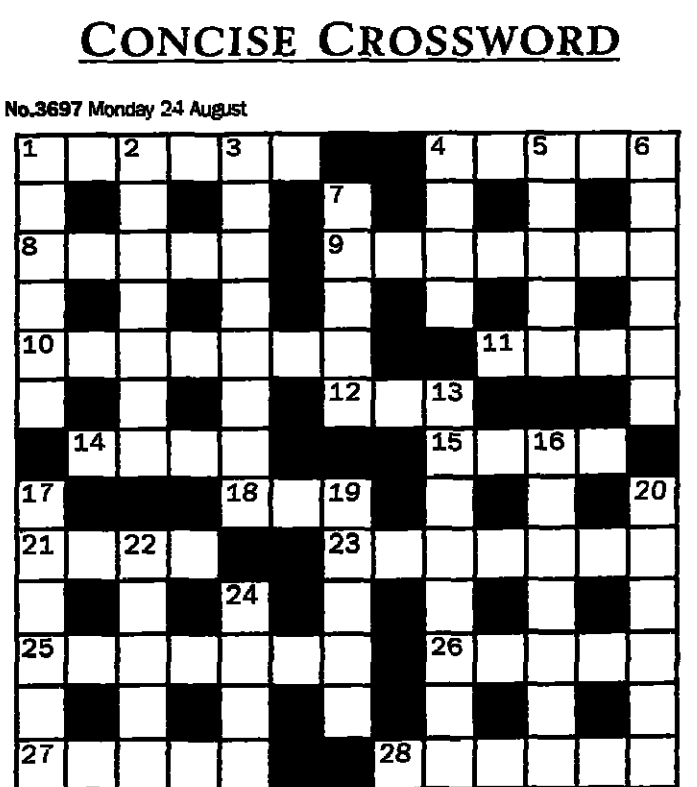
LET'S START the week with another dose of "26 L of the A" teasers. Find the missing words:

1 D S F the C
12 N W the N S and N F W is D
13 T F a G S
14 L in a S
(Answers tomorrow)

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3697 Monday 24 August

1 Down: 1. Man's Meat Is Another Man's Poison; 2. Strokes Below Par For an Eagle; 3. Cheers (Hip, Hip, Hooryay); 87 (= four score and seven) Years Ago Our Fathers Brought Forth Upon This Continent a New Nation; 88 Two Fat Ladies in Bingo.



ACROSS

- Composer (6)
- Handles roughly (5)
- Painful muscle contraction (5)
- Relationship (7)
- Small marsupial (7)
- French cheese (4)
- Cushion (3)
- Religious song (4)
- Paul (4)
- Alcoholic drink (3)
- Running event (4)
- Terrific (7)
- Piece of embroidery (7)
- Resided (5)
- Croatian port (5)
- Aircraft (6)

DOWN

- Sheath of insect larva (6)
- Rhetoric (7)
- Grand (8)
- Shaggy mass of hair (4)
- Court attendant (5)
- Late meal (4)
- Spint (5)
- Spring flower (8)
- Axe-like weapon (7)
- Emergency (6)
- Mother-of-pearl (5)
- Shallfish (6)
- Ship of the desert (5)
- Conspiracy (4)

ACROSS: 1 Start, 4 Ears (Star turns), 10 Cornish, 11 Giant, 12 Maori, 13 Coronet, 15 Seal, 17 Seal, 19 Apple, 22 Seal, 23 Hammer, 27 Kevlar, 29 Turn, 30 Onyx, 31 Fish, 32 Myth, DOWN: 1 Torus, 3 Reel, 4 Angel, 5 Nominal, 7 Seamp, 8 Grace, 9 State, 14 Owl, 16 Erse, 18 Numeral, 20 Mercury, 21 Photo, 23 Anon, 24 Fort, 26 Tease, 28 Cher.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

IRISH
As BBC1 London except: 6.30-7.00 News at 6.30. 7.00-7.30 News at 7.00. 7.30-8.00 News at 7.30. 8.00-8.30 News at 8.00. 8.30-9.00 News at 8.30. 9.00-9.30 News at 9.00. 9.30-10.00 News at 9.30. 10.00-10.30 News at 10.00. 10.30-11.00 News at 10.30. 11.00-11.30 News at 11.00. 11.30-12.00 News at 11.30. 12.00-12.30 News at 12.00. 12.30-1.00 News at 12.30. 1.00-1.30 News at 1.00. 1.30-2.00 News at 1.30. 2.00-2.30 News at 2.00. 2.30-3.00 News at 2.30. 3.00-3.30 News at 3.00. 3.30-4.00 News at 3.30. 4.00-4.30 News at 4.00. 4.30-5.00 News at 4.30. 5.00-5.30 News at 5.00. 5.30-6.00 News at 5.30. 6.00-6.30 News at 6.00. 6.30-7.00 News at 6.30. 7.00-7.30 News at 7.00. 7.30-8.00 News at 7.30. 8.00-8.30 News at 8.00. 8.30-9.00 News at 8.30. 9.00-9.30 News at 9.00. 9.30-10.00 News at 9.30. 10.00-10.30 News at 10.00. 10.30-11.00 News at 10.30. 11.00-11.30 News at 11.00. 11.30-12.00 News at 11.30. 12.00-12.30 News at 12.00. 12.30-1.00 News at 12.30. 1.00-1.30 News at 1.00. 1.30-2.00 News at 1.30. 2.00-2.30 News at 2.00. 2.30-3.00 News at 2.30. 3.00-3.30 News at 3.00. 3.30-4.00 News at 3.30. 4.00-4.30 News at 4.00. 4.30-5.00 News at 4.30. 5.00-5.30 News at 5.00. 5.30-6.00 News at 5.30. 6.00-6.30 News at 6.00. 6.30-7.00 News at 6.30. 7.00-7.30 News at 7.00. 7.30-8.00 News at 7.30. 8.00-8.30 News at 8.00. 8.30-9.00 News at 8.30. 9.00-9.30 News at 9.00. 9.30-10.00 News at 9.30. 10.00-10.30 News at 10.00. 10.30-11.00 News at 10.30. 11.00-11.30 News at 11.00. 11.30-12.00 News at 11.30. 12.00-12.30 News at 12.00. 12.30-1.00 News at 12.30. 1.00-1.30 News at 1.00. 1.30-2.00 News at 1.30. 2.00-2.30 News at 2.00. 2.30-3.00 News at 2.30. 3.00-3.30 News at 3.00. 3.30-4.00 News at 3.30. 4.00-4.30 News at 4.00. 4.30-5.00 News at 4.30. 5.00-5.30 News at 5.00. 5.30-6.00 News at 5.30. 6.00-6.30 News at 6.00. 6.30-7.00 News at 6.30. 7.00-7.30 News at 7.00. 7.30-8.00 News at 7.30. 8.00-8.30 News at 8.00. 8.30-9.00 News at 8.30. 9.00-9.30 News at 9.00. 9.30-10.00 News at 9.30. 10.00-10.30 News at 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6.30-7.00 News at 6.30. 7.00-7.30 News at 7.00. 7.30-8.00 News at 7.30. 8.00-8.30 News at 8.00. 8.30-9.00 News at 8.30. 9.00-9.30 News at 9.00. 9.30-10.00 News at 9.30. 10.00-10.30 News at 10.00. 10.30-11.00 News at 10.30. 11.00-11.30 News at 11.00. 11.30-12.00 News at 11.30. 12.00-12.30 News at 12.00. 12.30-1.00 News at 12.30. 1.00-1.30 News at 1.00. 1.30-2.00 News at 1.30. 2.00-2.30 News at 2.00. 2.30-3.00 News at 2.30. 3.00-3.30 News at 3.00. 3.30-4.00 News at 3.30. 4.00-4.30 News at 4.00. 4.30-5.00 News at 4.30. 5.00-5.30 News at 5.00. 5.30-6.00 News at 5.30. 6.00-6.30 News at 6.00. 6.30-7.00 News at 6.30. 7.00-7.30 News at 7.00. 7.30-8.00 News at 7.30. 8.00-8.30 News at 8.00. 8.30-9.00 News at 8.30. 9.00-9.30 News at 9.00. 9.30-10.00 News at 9.30. 10.00-10.30 News at 10.00. 10.30-11.00 News at 10.30. 11.00-11.30 News at 11.00. 11.30-12.00 News at 11.30. 12.00-12.30 News at 12.00. 12.30-1.00 News at 12.30. 1.00-1.30 News at 1.00. 1.30-2.00 News at 1.30. 2.00-2.30 News at 2.00. 2.30-3.00 News at 2.30. 3.00-3.30 News at 3.00. 3.30-4.00 News at 3.30. 4.00-4.30 News at 4.00. 4.30-5.00 News at 4.30. 5.00-5.30 News at 5.00. 5.30-6.00 News at 5.30. 6.00-6.30 News at 6.00. 6.30-7.00 News at 6.30. 7.00-7.30 News at 7.00. 7.30-8.00 News at 7.30. 8.00-8.30 News at 8.00. 8.30-9.00 News at 8.30. 9.00-9.30 News at 9.00. 9.30-10.00 News at 9.30. 10.00-10.30 News at 10.00. 10.30-11.00 News at 10.30. 11.00-11.30 News at 11.00. 11.30-12.00 News at 11.30. 12.00-12.30 News at 12.00. 12.30-1.00 News at 12.30. 1.00-1.30 News at 1.00. 1.30-2.00 News at 1.30. 2.00-2.30 News at 2.00. 2.30-3.00 News at 2.30. 3.00-3.30 News at 3.00. 3.30-4.00 News at 3.30. 4.00-4.30 News at 4.00. 4.30-5.00 News at 4.30. 5.00-5.30 News at 5.00. 5.30-6.00 News at 5.30. 6.00-6.30 News at 6.00. 6.30-7.00 News at 6.30. 7.00-7.30 News at 7.00. 7.30-8.00 News at 7.30. 8.00-8.30 News at 8.00. 8.30-9.00 News at 8.30. 9.00-9.30 News at 9.00. 9.30-10.00 News at 9.30. 10.00-10.30 News at 10.00. 10.30-11.00 News 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